

# Acts of Synod 1953

of the

**CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
CHURCH**



CHRISTIAN REFORMED PUBLISHING HOUSE

47 Jefferson Avenue, S.E.  
Grand Rapids 2, Mich., U.S.A.

# **Acts of Synod 1953**

of the

**CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED  
C H U R C H**

in Session from

**JUNE 10 to JUNE 26, 1953**

**AT CALVIN COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A.**

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED PUBLISHING HOUSE**

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## SYNODICAL PRAYER SERVICE

*held at the*

NELAND AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1953, AT 7:45 P. M.**

*Rev. R. J. Danhof, Th. D., Pastor of the Convening Church, preaching  
the sermon and leading in prayer for Synod.*

Miss Sylvia Ten Broek, serving at the organ.

Mr. H. P. Geerdes, Director of Neland Avenue Church Choir.

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PRELUDE — "Prelude on Old Hundredth".....*Purcell*

"But the Lord is Mindful of His own".....*Mendelssohn*

CHOIR — "Call to Worship"

SILENT PRAYER (Unannounced)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

SINGING — No. 277

INVOCATION AND SALUTATION

READING OF PSALM OF PRAISE

APOSTLES' CREED — In unison

GLORIA PATRI — No. 467

PRAYER

SINGING — No. 185

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY — "The Faithful Shepherd".....*Handel*

OFFERING — The Soldiers Fund

CHOIR — "Great and Marvelous are Thy Works".....*Gail*

SCRIPTURE READING — I Corinthians 3

SERMON — THE FELLOW-WORKERS OF GOD IN THE  
BUILDING OF HIS CHURCH

Text: I Corinthians 3:5-9

CHOIR — "O God Our Help In Ages Past".....*Craft*

PRAYER FOR SYNOD

SINGING — No. 394

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY — No. 468

POSTLUDE — "Grand Choeur from Oratorio Joshua".....*Handel*

# ACTS OF SYNOD

of the

## CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Grand Rapids, Michigan

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1953  
First Session

### ARTICLE 1

At 9:00 A.M. Dr. R. J. Danhof, pastor of the convening church calls the meeting to order, and serves as president pro-tem. No. 390 of the Psalter Hymnal is sung after which Dr. Danhof reads Colossians 3:1-17 and leads in prayer, using the "Opening Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies."

### ARTICLE 2

Dr. Danhof now delivers the following message to Synod:

*Esteemed Brethren and Delegates to the Synod of 1953, Fraternal Delegates of Sister Churches, and corresponding Churches, Advisers, Friends:*

I welcome you most heartily in the name of the convening church as delegates to the Synod of 1953. The Rules for Synodical Procedure adopted by the Synod of 1952 account for the fact that I appear here this morning as president pro-tem. You will be expected to conduct the task of this Synod in agreement with these rules. A small booklet was prepared and mailed to all Consistories to acquaint our churches with these new rules, and delegates will give serious study to these matters to promote good order at your sessions.

The largest Synod in our history is convened, since no less than 96 delegates are present to represent 24 Classes. From east and west, north and south, you have come to discharge the task of the King of the Church. But the importance of this Synod will not rest in an enlarged delegation. This means more voices will be heard and more time will be necessary to arrive at decisions. As I see it, eventually some change will have to be made to reduce the size of our Synod. The importance of this Synod depends upon the solution to be given to the issues before you. No less than 66 overtures are on the Agenda, in addition to numerous supplementary Agenda reports that have come in since the printed Agenda copy was published, and for these new matters you will have to use your leisure time to formulate your opinion.

No less than eight large issues before the Church must be decided at this Synod. You will have to decide upon appointments and re-appointments

in our College and Seminary. In addition to other qualifications to teach in our College and Seminary we must have the assurance that we have men who are in full agreement with our Reformed doctrines and practices. This is a primary consideration. You will also have to determine what course of action must be taken to overtures requesting severance of the tie between the Church and Calvin College. This calls for very serious consideration on your part. You also must seek to find a happy solution to the constantly recurring problem confronting our Church Help Fund to provide the proper financial support to our expanding number of churches in the Canadian field. Special drives for funds lose their appeal and a more substantial and permanent solution must be found. You will at this Synod also come to grips with the reports of the Missions Principles Study Committee. You will need much wisdom and complete information to make a choice adaptable to all our mission fields. Canadian immigration work calls for reorganization, and also in this matter we must move slowly and safely. There is a clamor to give expression on the New Revised Standard Bible Version. A serious question confronts you in the report on the realignment of missions and church extension. Again before you, as in previous Synodical meetings, the question of membership in so-called neutral labor unions calls for solution. I'm confident you will give serious consideration to the work of previous study committees who have in former years wrestled seriously with this problem. Should we probably also in this not seriously consider the course pursued by our sister church in the Netherlands in dealing with a similar problem? Should the church probably only confine itself to the formulation of the principles of Scripture applicable to social and economic spheres of life, and leave their application to the initiative of Christian organizations? The work of our Committee on Education is also before you. Great changes are proposed.

A few overtures call for measures to improve the examination of applicants for the Ministry. This is not a new problem. Attention of the Church was called to this situation twenty years ago to seriously take note of the principle of Church Polity involved in how we conduct the "Praeparatoir" examination.

Brethren, you have a tremendous task to perform. The largest Agenda in our denominational history is in your possession. You need strength of body and soul to do good work, and may you labor as fellow-workers in the building of God's Church, and may the Holy Spirit richly guide you in all your deliberations. May you be able to reach decisions that fully merit the approval of God. Emotions and personal feelings may not serve you as a guide, but you must be engaged in hard thinking, sanctified judgment and sober reflection upon every problem calling for solution. Seek to convince one another on the basis of God's Word. That has always been the glory of our ecclesiastical assemblies.<sup>3</sup>

Pray much for your fellow delegates, and especially for those who will serve you as officers of this Synod. Let the example of Christ constantly remind us that we came here to serve Him. May His Spirit help you to discharge your task with joy to the praise of His all-glorious Name.

## ARTICLE 3

The credentials of the delegates are read, showing that Synod is composed as follows:

<b>Classis Alberta</b>		<b>Classis Hackensack</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	J. Verbrugge	<i>Ministers</i> .....	H. Bossenbroek
	G. Van Laar		E. Joling
<i>Elders</i> .....	H. Wierenga	<i>Elders</i> .....	E. Heerema
	H. J. Ten Hove		J. Kamp
<b>Classis California</b>		<b>Classis Hamilton</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	E. Tanis	<i>Ministers</i> .....	A. Persenaire
	J. Petersen		J. Vander Meer
<i>Elders</i> .....	P. Hekman	<i>Elders</i> .....	A. Reitsma
	L. Bos		C. Mantel
<b>Classis Chatham</b>		<b>Classis Holland</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	G. Vander Ziel	<i>Ministers</i> .....	A. Hoogstrate
	J. Gritter		H. Vander Ark
<i>Elders</i> .....	B. De Jong	<i>Elders</i> .....	T. Hoeksema
	R. Koning		A. Klingenberg
<b>Classis Chicago North</b>		<b>Classis Hudson</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	R. Veenstra	<i>Ministers</i> .....	T. Van Eerden
	A. De Kruyter		H. Sonnema
<i>Elders</i> .....	R. Rozema	<i>Elders</i> .....	C. De Jager
	H. Wierenga		N. Prins
<b>Classis Chicago South</b>		<b>Classis Kalamazoo</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	J. De Kruyter	<i>Ministers</i> .....	G. Vande Riet
	J. Bult		E. Pekelder
<i>Elders</i> .....	O. Schmidt	<i>Elders</i> .....	A. Weessies
	A. Sluis		G. Kamp
<b>Classis Eastern Ontario</b>		<b>Classis Minnesota North</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	H. Moes	<i>Ministers</i> .....	I. Meuzelaar
	L. Van Laar		W. Ackerman
<i>Elders</i> .....	J. Vander Vliet	<i>Elders</i> .....	A. Geurkink
	Rev. J. Rubingh*		B. De Boer
<b>Classis Grand Rapids East</b>		<b>Classis Minnesota South</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	C. Boomsma	<i>Ministers</i> .....	R. Wezeman
	W. Van Rees		H. Vanderaa
<i>Elders</i> .....	M. Kulikamp	<i>Elders</i> .....	J. Overbeek
	M. Smith		J. Vander Maten
<b>Classis Grand Rapids South</b>		<b>Classis Muskegon</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	G. Goris	<i>Ministers</i> .....	L. Veltkamp
	J. Hasper		C. De Haan
<i>Elders</i> .....	F. Wierenga	<i>Elders</i> .....	J. Elhens
	G. Heyns		G. Trap
<b>Classis Grand Rapids West</b>		<b>Classis Orange City</b>	
<i>Ministers</i> .....	C. Buus	<i>Ministers</i> .....	W. Prince
	R. De Ridder		B. Visscher
<i>Elders</i> .....	J. Langeland	<i>Elders</i> .....	S. Elgersma
	P. Brink		R. J. Dykstra

**Classis Ostfriesland**

Ministers.....C. Ter Maat  
                                   H. Zwaanstra  
 Elders.....S. Cannegieter  
                                   J. Doyen

**Classis Sioux Center**

Ministers.....B. J. Haan  
                                   P. Huisman  
 Elders.....N. Krediet  
                                   A. Ten Harmse

**Classis Pacific**

Ministers.....W. Verwolf  
                                   P. De Koekkoek  
 Elders.....J. Kruick  
                                   W. Vander Griend

**Classis Wisconsin**

Ministers.....R. Rienstra  
                                   G. Rozenboom  
 Elders.....H. Verhulst  
                                   F. Voskuil

**Classis Pella**

Ministers.....S. J. De Vries  
                                   M. Ouwinga  
 Elders.....H. Stek  
                                   G. Rooy

**Classis Zeeland**

Ministers.....E. Van Halsema  
                                   J. Breuker  
 Elders.....H. Sall  
                                   G. Veenboer

\* Since Classis E. Ontario found it impossible to delegate two elders, Rev. J. Rubingh is present as an elder delegate.

Synod is declared properly constituted.

**ARTICLE 4**

Synod elects the following officers:

- President*.....REV. E. F. J. VAN HALSEMA, Hudsonville, Mich.
- Vice-President*.....REV. G. GORIS, Ph.D., Grandville, Mich.
- First Clerk*.....REV. J. GRITTER, London, Ontario, Canada
- Second Clerk*.....REV. J. BREUKER, Zutphen, Mich.

**ARTICLE 5**

The president pro tem introduces the officers to the Synod. The president responds in fitting words expressing his feeling of unworthiness of the office and bespeaking the co-operation of the members of the synod, including in his remarks also the other officers.

**ARTICLE 6**

The President reads the "Public Declaration of Agreement with the Forms of Unity" with which the delegates, standing, express their agreement.

**ARTICLE 7**

The President thanks Dr. R. J. Danhof for the solid and eloquent message delivered in the Prayer Service on the evening before, for the appropriate remarks of this morning, and for his constant valuable services as Stated Clerk. The President also welcomes the Professors of the Seminary, including Emeritus Professor L. Berkhof, the President of the College, the Director of Missions, the Home Missionary at Large, the Secretary of the General Home Missions Committee, the Editor of the Banner, ministers, missionaries, and members of our churches present. In this connection he takes special note of the absence of Dr.

S. Volbeda, who was recently taken to the Lord. He further welcomes Dr. P. J. Coetzee, fraternal delegate of "Die Gereformeerde Kerk" of South Africa, and the Rev. B. J. Danhof, fraternal delegate of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

## ARTICLE 8

Synod adopts the following schedule: 8:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M., with a fifteen minute recess at 9:45; 1:30 P.M. to 5:45, with a fifteen minute recess at 3:15 P.M.

## ARTICLE 9

The President appoints the following *Program Committee*: The officers of Synod, Revs. J. C. Verbrugge, L. Van Laar, C. Boomsma, A. Persenaire, T. Van Eerden, W. Ackerman, L. Veltkamp, H. Zwaanstra, S. J. De Vries, B. J. Haan, and the Elders P. Hekman, R. Rozema, O. Schmidt, P. Brink, E. Heerema, T. Hoeksema, G. Kamp, J. Overbeek, S. Elgersma, W. Vander Griend, H. Stek, H. Verhulst.

## ARTICLE 10

Synod decides to recess till 3:30 P.M. to give the Program Committee time to do its work. The President closes this session with the "Closing Prayer for Ecclesiastical Assemblies."

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**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 10**
**Second Session**

## ARTICLE 11

After No. 50 of the Psalter Hymnal is sung the Vice President leads in prayer.

## ARTICLE 12

The Program Committee presents the following arrangement of Advisory Committees:

COMMITTEE No. 1 — *Educational Matters*.....  
 .....Faculty Room, Seminary Building

*Chairman* — Rev. A. Hoogstrate

*Reporter* — Dr. G. Heyns

Rev. J. Verbrugge

Elder H. Verhulst

Rev. C. O. Buus

Elder Dr. L. Bos

Rev. S. J. De Vries

Elder B. De Boer

Rev. R. Wezeman

Elder A. Ten Harmsel

Rev. H. Vanderaa



COMMITTEE No. 2 — *Educational Matters*.....

.....Class Room No. 1, Seminary Building

*Chairman* — Rev. R. L. Veenstra*Reporter* — Rev. L. Veltkamp

Rev. A. De Kruyter

Elder P. Brink

Rev. I. Meuzelaar

Elder J. Kruick

Rev. R. Rienstra

Elder G. Veenboer

Elder H. A. Wierenga

*Advisers:* Dr. W. Spoelhof

Elder A. Sluis

Prof. R. B. Kuiper

COMMITTEE No. 3 — *Indian and Foreign Missions*.....

.....Class Room No. 2, Seminary Building

*Chairman* — Rev. E. Tanis*Reporter* — Rev. G. Rozenboom

Rev. G. Vande Riet

Elder J. Vander Vliet

Rev. W. Ackerman

Elder J. Kamp

Rev. P. Huisman

Elder G. Trap

Rev. J. Hasper

*Adviser:* Dr. J. H. Kromminga

Elder O. Schmidt

COMMITTEE No. 4 — *Home Missions*

.....Class Room No. 3, Seminary Building

*Chairman* — Rev. W. Van Rees*Reporter* — Rev. J. De Kruyter

Rev. J. Bult

Elder J. Langeland

Rev. H. Vander Ark

Elder C. Mantel

Rev. W. Verwolf

Elder R. Dykstra

Elder B. De Jong

*Adviser:* Prof. R. B. Kuiper

Elder M. Kulikamp

COMMITTEE No. 5 — *Publication Matters*.....

.....Class Room No. 4, Seminary Building

*Chairman* — Rev. L. Van Laar*Reporter* — Rev. J. Petersen

Rev. G. J. Vander Ziel

Elder A. Geurkink

Rev. E. Joling

Elder J. Doyen

Rev. W. Prince

Elder S. Voskuil

Elder E. Heerema

*Adviser:* Prof. H. Schultze

Elder A. Klingenberg

COMMITTEE No. 6—*Church Order*.....  
 .....Class Room No. 5, Seminary Building  
*Chairman* — Rev. E. B. Pekelder  
*Reporter* — Rev. A. Persenaire  
 Rev. H. Moes                                   Elder J. Overbeek  
 Rev. C. De Haan                               Elder S. Cannegieter  
 Rev. B. Visscher                             Elder H. Sall  
 Elder H. J. Ten Hove                       Elder H. Stek  
 Elder A. Reitsma                             *Adviser:* Dr. J. H. Kromminga

COMMITTEE No. 7—*Varia*.....  
 .....Class Room No. 6, Seminary Building  
*Chairman* — Rev. M. Ouwinga  
*Reporter* — Rev. B. J. Haan  
 Rev. H. Bossenbroek                       Elder A. Weessies  
 Rev. C. Ter Maat                            Elder J. Ellens  
 Rev. J. Vander Meer                       Elder N. Krediet  
 Elder M. Smith                               *Adviser:*  
 Elder C. De Jager                            Prof. M. J. Wyngaarden

COMMITTEE No. 8—*Protests and Appeals*.....  
 .....Student Lounge Main Floor, Sem. Bldg.  
*Chairman* — Rev. G. Van Laar  
*Reporter* — Rev. C. Boomsma  
 Rev. J. Rubingh                             Elder J. Vander Maten  
 Rev. R. De Ridder                           Elder S. Elgersma  
 Rev. H. Sonnema                            Elder G. Rooy  
 Rev. P. De Koekkoek                       *Adviser:* Dr. H. Stob  
 Elder N. Prins

COMMITTEE No. 9—*Budget Matters*.....  
 .....Girls' Lounge, College Building  
*Chairman* — Rev. T. Van Eerden  
*Reporter* — Elder George Kamp  
 Rev. H. Zwaanstra                         Elder Harry Wierenga  
 Elder R. Rozema                             Elder Frank Wierenga  
 Elder P. Hekman                            Elder T. Hoeksema  
 Elder R. Koning                             Elder W. Vander Griend

Adopted

### ARTICLE 13

The *Program Committee* also presents the following:

The committee took cognizance of the overture No. 37 of Classis Alberta expressing dissatisfaction with the examination as held last year because not sufficient time was allowed, and suggesting that Synod this year take two days for this examination. Your committee judges

that there is just reason for this complaint. We suggest the following arrangement for the examination:

1. That Synod meet in four groups as was done last year.
2. That each candidate be allowed fifteen minutes for delivery of his sermon.
3. That for the examination in Introduction be allowed twenty minutes, for each two Loci in Dogmatics forty minutes, for Practica not to exceed ten minutes per candidate. (See schedule in Art. 36).
4. That each group shall report to the full Synod the outcome of the examination of the candidates assigned to it.
5. That since the examination of the candidates probably cannot be finished on Friday, Synod decide now to meet Saturday till noon.

*Adopted*

#### ARTICLE 14

The *Program Committee* reports:

Mr. Edward H. Palmer, Th. D., a graduate of the Free University of Amsterdam, requests that he be examined for candidacy in the Christian Reformed Church, and that the rule of one year attendance at Calvin Seminary in his case be waived. cf Article 25.

*Approved*

#### ARTICLE 15

The *Program Committee* proposes that Synod meet Thursday morning to hear fraternal delegates and attend to other necessary matters. See Articles 21, 22, 24.

*Adopted*

#### ARTICLE 16

The President appoints to serve as the *Reception Committee*: Dr. G. Heyns and the Rev. L. Van Laar, and as the *Obituary Committee*: The Rev. R. L. Veenstra and the Rev. E. Joling. (For Reception Committee see Articles 21, 22, 77, 83). (For Obituary Committee report see Article 132).

#### ARTICLE 17

Synod recesses till Thursday Morning. The First Clerk leads in prayer.

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### THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 11

#### Third Session

#### ARTICLE 18

Synod is called to order by the President. Synod sings Psalter Hymnal No. 189 and the Second clerk leads in prayer.

#### ARTICLE 19

The First Clerk calls the roll. All delegates are present.

## ARTICLE 20

The minutes of the Wednesday sessions are read and approved.

## ARTICLE 21

The President welcomes Dr. Frank Allen, fraternal delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, who is then introduced by the Rev. L. Van Laar of the Reception Committee. Dr. Allen addresses Synod. He expresses his personal keen interest in the Christian Reformed Church and its publications. He also tells of the appreciation of his denomination for our position and practices, agreement with many of them being found in their circles. He cites a few differences existing between them and us, as e.g. that they maintain the exclusive use of the Psalter without hymns, and that they make no use of instrumental music in their worship services. He expresses joy in the growth of our Church in many phases and wishes Synod God-speed.

Rev. Clarence Boomsma responds with a few well-chosen remarks assuring him of our interest in his denomination.

## ARTICLE 22

The Reception Committee also introduces the Rev. B. J. Danhof, the fraternal delegate from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Rev. Danhof speaks to Synod, telling much of the history of his denomination, feeling this to be pertinent since no correspondence has been carried on between us and them for a number of years. He stresses the "race problem" with which they contend and expresses the hope that we may be able to assist them in the solution of it. He also bespeaks for Synod God's choicest blessings.

To this address the Rev. Thomas Van Eerden responds for Synod giving assurance of our sympathetic interest and prayers.

## ARTICLE 23

Dr. John H. Kromminga, Rev. R. B. Kuiper, and Dr. William Spoelhof express their agreement with our Forms of Unity.

## ARTICLE 24

The Stated Clerk introduces Dr. P. J. Coetzee, fraternal delegate of our sister Church, "Die Gereformeerde Kerke van Suid Afrika", and also reads the credentials which had been sent on his behalf. Dr. Coetzee very eloquently and earnestly addresses the Synod. (See Supplement 49.)

Dr. John H. Kromminga responds to Dr. Coetzee, expressing our happiness in being able to associate with them as one of our sister Churches. He asks that our sister Church remember us in her prayers as we struggle with problems which are peculiarly our own, and assures him that we shall not forget them in our intercessions.

## ARTICLE 25

The Committee on *Educational Matters II*, (Rev. L. Veltkamp reporting) presents the following:

Request of Dr. Edwin H. Palmer (Cf. Article 14).

A. *Material*

1. Several letters from Dr. Palmer to the Board of Trustees, Stated Clerk and our Synod.
2. Letters of recommendation from Professor G. C. Berkouwer and Prof. R. B. Kuiper.
3. Doctor's statement of health.
4. Statement and membership papers from the Gereformeerde Kerk Watergraafsmeer (Amsterdam-Oost).
5. Copies of two sample sermons.

B. *Considerations*

1. Dr. E. Palmer requests Synod's permission to submit to the examination for candidacy in the Christian Reformed Church and that Synod waive in his case the rule of one year's residence study at our seminary as requirement for entrance into the ministry.

2. Dr. Palmer was raised in a liberal Congregational Church. He was converted to orthodoxy, affiliated with Park St. Congregational Church under Dr. H. Ockenga, attended Harvard University and through contact with Dr. E. Runner was led to Westminster Seminary and embraced the Calvinistic faith. After graduation he attended the Free University at Amsterdam for four years where he obtained his doctor's degree this spring. While in the Netherlands he became acquainted with the Christian Reformed Church and deeply interested in it to the extent that it is his profound desire to enter its ministry immediately on completion of his doctorate. Since he has completed an extensive program of academic, theological training in a Calvinistic Seminary and University, including even the doctorate, he asks that the rule of one year's residence study at our seminary be suspended in his case.

C. *Recommendation:*

Your committee after considering all the material in the case, and interviewing Dr. Palmer personally, recommends that Synod grant his request to be admitted to examination at this Synod, for candidacy in the Christian Reformed Church.

*Grounds:*

1. He is thoroughly committed to the Reformed faith and the position of our church.

2. His Reformed theological training has been sufficiently extensive so as to make an added year at our seminary, academically, superfluous. (Report on Educational Matters II continued in Article 90.)

Adopted

#### ARTICLE 26

The President reads a communication to the effect that Mr. Albert Walma will not be able to be present for his examination due to illness. Synod expresses sympathy with Mr. Walma in this affliction, prays that he may recover in time to still present himself at a later date, and decides that if this cannot be, some arrangement will be made.

#### ARTICLE 27

Synod now takes recess until Friday morning. Elder Frank Wierenga offers the closing prayer.

### FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 12

#### Fourth Session

#### ARTICLE 28

Synod sings No. 281 and the Rev. G. Van Laar voices its prayer to God.

#### ARTICLE 29

Roll Call is held. The Rev. John Entingh, present in the place of the Rev. G. Vande Riet, expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity.

#### ARTICLE 30

The minutes of the Thursday session are read and approved.

#### ARTICLE 31

The President appoints on the *Committee of Appointments*: Dr. G. Goris, Revs. J. Petersen, A. De Kruyter, H. Moes, C. Boomsma, J. Vander Meer, G. Van de Riet, H. Vanderaa, C. De Haan, W. Prince, P. De Koekkoek, B. J. Haan, and Elders H. J. Ten Hove, R. Koning, A. Sluis, J. Langeland, J. Kamp, A. Klingenberg, N. Prins, B. De Boer, S. Cannegieter, H. Stek, H. Verhulst, G. Veenboer. (See Article 164 for Report.)

#### ARTICLE 32

The Committee on Credentials of prospective candidates, namely the Revs. A. Persenaire and H. Bossenbroek, report as follows:

The Committee on Credentials has found that each of the prospective candidates has the required credentials at hand.

All of them are recommended to the Gospel Ministry by the Seminary Faculty and the consistories concerned. According to recognized physicians each one is in good health.

The committee moves that Synod proceed with the examination.

*Received as information.*

## ARTICLE 33

The Sermon Critics by the Rev. C. Oliver Buus report: On the basis of our examination and evaluation of the sermons submitted by the prospective candidates we recommend that Synod proceed with the examination.

*Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 34

A letter is read of the Rev. H. J. Kuiper, Editor of the Banner, in which he complains of a letter by Dr. P. G. Berkhout, which letter has been circulated among the members of Synod. This matter is referred to the Committee on Publication Matters. (See Article 151.)

## ARTICLE 35

It is decided to meet at 8 P.M. to hear the reports of the groups on the outcome of the examinations and to decide on admission to candidacy. After this Synod divides into four groups to hear the sermons, as follows:

## ARTICLE 36

The examination is conducted as follows:

## GROUP NO. 1

*College Chapel*

*Chairman — Rev. E. Van Halsema*

*Reporter — Rev. J. Verbrugge*

EXAMINING CLASSES	CANDIDATES
Alberta	Harry G. Arnold — Mat. 4:1-4
California	Jacob P. Boonstra — Luke 18:15-17
Chatham	Peter W. Brouwer — Heb. 12:28, 29
Chicago North	Harvey D. Bultje — Philip. 3:20, 21
Chicago South	Fred Bultman, Jr. — Isa. 1:18
Eastern Ontario	Bernard Byrna — Acts 2:37-39

## GROUP NO. 2

*Seminary Chapel*

*Chairman — Rev. G. Goris*

*Reporter — Rev. J. Hasper*

EXAMINING CLASSES	CANDIDATES
Grand Rapids East	Gerrit B. Dokter — Jer. 17:9, 10
Grand Rapids South	Jerrien Gunnink — Jude 17:21
Grand Rapids West	Herman Hoekstra — Ps. 62:1, 2
Hackensack	William A. Huyser — 2 Cor. 5:1
Hamilton	John Morren — Matt. 7:15-20
Holland	Edwin H. Palmer — Hebr. 13:20, 21

**GROUP NO. 3***Seminary Assembly Room**Chairman* — Rev. J. Gritter*Reporter* — Rev. R. Wezeman**EXAMINING CLASSES**

Hudson  
 Kalamazoo  
 Minnesota North  
 Minnesota South  
 Muskegon  
 Orange City

**CANDIDATES**

Donald J. Negen — Isa 65:1  
 Bernard Niemeyer — Heb. 12:1, 2  
 Cornelius Persenaire — Eph. 5:15-21  
 Kermit Rietema — Isa. 40:1, 2  
 Kenneth R. Slager — Rom. 8:38, 39  
 Samuel Ten Brink — Col. 2:6, 7  
 Charles Terpstra — Mat. 7:13, 14

**GROUP NO. 4***Room 37, College Building**Chairman* — Rev. J. Breuker*Reporter* — Rev. P. De Koekoek**EXAMINING CLASSES**

Ostfriesland  
 Pacific  
 Pella  
 Sioux Center  
 Wisconsin  
 Zeeland

**CANDIDATES**

Adrian Van Anel — 2 Cor. 5:20, 21  
 Gerald Vanden Berg — John 10:27, 28  
 John Van Stempvoort — Mat. 7:21-23  
 Robert Vermeer — Dan. 3:17, 18  
 Theodore Verseput — John 6:60-63  
 Jay Wesseling — Ps. 1:1, 2  
 Andrew Zylstra — Jer. 17:5-8

**GROUP NO. 1**

9:00- 9:45  
 10:00-11:45 Sermons  
 1:00- 1:20 Introduction — Classis Pacific's examiner  
 1:20- 2:00 Theology and Anthropology — Classis Pella's examiner  
 2:00- 2:40 Christology and Soteriology — Cl. Sioux Center's examiner  
 2:40- 3:00 Recess  
 3:00- 3:40 Ecclesiology and Eschatology — Classis Wisconsin's examiner  
 3:40- 4:40 Practica — Classis Alberta's examiner  
 4:40- Questions

**GROUP NO. 2**

9:00- 9:45  
 10:00-11:45 Sermons  
 1:00- 1:40 Christology and Soteriology — Cl. Sioux Center's examiner  
 1:40- 2:20 Ecclesiology and Eschatology — Classis Wisconsin's examiner  
 2:20- 3:00 Theology and Anthropology — Classis Pella's examiner  
 3:00- 3:10 Recess  
 3:10- 4:10 Practica — Classis California's examiner  
 4:10- 4:30 Introduction — Classis Pacific's examiner

**GROUP NO. 3**

9:00- 9:45  
 10:00-11:45 Sermons  
 1:00- 1:40 Ecclesiology and Eschatology — Classis Wisconsin's examiner  
 1:40- 2:00 Introduction — Classis Pacific's examiner  
 2:00- 3:00 Practica — Classis Ontario's examiner  
 3:00- 3:10 Recess  
 3:10- 3:50 Theology and Anthropology — Classis Pella's examiner  
 3:50- 4:30 Christology and Soteriology — Cl. Sioux Center's examiner



## GROUP NO. 4

9:00- 9:45	
10:00-11:45	Sermons
1:00- 2:00	Practica—Classis G. R. South's examiner
2:00- 2:20	Introduction—Classis Pacific's examiner
2:20- 3:00	Ecclesiology and Eschatology—Classis Wisconsin's examiner
3:00- 3:10	Recess
3:10- 3:50	Christology and Soteriology—Cl. Sioux Center's examiner
3:50- 4:30	Theology and Anthropology—Classis Pacific's examiner

**FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 12**  
**Fifth Session**

## ARTICLE 37

After singing Psalter Hymnal No. 389 the Rev. J. Petersen offers prayer.

## ARTICLE 38

The President announces that the dinner hour, next Wednesday evening, will be in honor of Dr. and Mrs. P. J. Coetzee, our honored guests from South Africa.

## ARTICLE 39

The President invites the members of Synod to put any further questions to any of the candidates. None is asked. The young men are dismissed and Synod meets in Executive session. The Chair calls for the reports of the respective groups. Group I reports as follows: The delegates of the Classes Alberta, California, Chatham, Chicago North, Chicago South and Eastern Ontario, having heard the examination of the following Candidates: Harry G. Arnold, Jacob P. Boonstra, Peter W. Brouwer, Harvey D. Bultje, Fred Bultman Jr., Bernard Byma, and being satisfied with the results of the examination recommend to Synod to act favorably upon their application for Candidacy to the Gospel Ministry, Rev. John C. Verbrugge, reporter.

Rev. Harry Vander Ark reports for Group II as follows: The Classes Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids South, Grand Rapids West, Hackensack, Hamilton, and Holland having duly examined the following Candidates: Gerrit B. Dokter, Jerrien Gunnink, Herman Hoekstra, William A. Huyser, John Morren, and Edward H. Palmer, unanimously recommend them for Candidature to the Gospel Ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

Group III, Rev. R. Wezeman, reporting, presents the following report: The delegates of Classis Hudson, Kalamazoo, Minnesota North, Minnesota South, Muskegon, and Orange City, having heard the examination of the brethren Donald J. Negen, Bernard Niemeyer, Cornelius Persenaire, Kermit Rietema, Kenneth R. Slager, Samuel Ten Brink, and Charles Terpstra, recommend that Synod declare

these men Candidates in the Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.

Group IV. Rev. Paul De Koekkoek reporting, as follows: Group Four has met as per assignment for the examination of the brethren Adrian Van Anandel, Gerald Vanden Berg, John Van Stempvoort, Robert Vermeer, Theodore Verseput, Jay A. Wesseling, and Andrew Zylstra. After their sermons had been heard, it was unanimously decided to proceed with the further examination. Upon conclusion of this, it was unanimously decided to recommend to Synod that the above mentioned brethren be granted Candidacy for the Ministry in our churches.

A statement of the Seminary Faculty by the Acting President, recommending all the candidates for admission, is read.

#### ARTICLE 40

The Report of the Advisory Committee on *Church Order*, Rev. A. Persenaire reporting:

CANDIDACY OF MR. MARTIN H. WOULDSTRA:

A. *Materials*:

Overture 33 (Cf. Acts of Synod 1952, Art. 156, p. 94).

B. *Elucidation*:

The Synod of 1952 received a communication from Mr. Martin H. Woudstra, wherein he requested that he be declared a candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church. Mr. Woudstra received his theological training in the Netherlands and in the Westminster Seminary, and was formerly a member of the Gereformeerde Kerken (Onderh. Art. 31 K.O.).

After an interview with this brother, last year's Synod tabled a motion to admit him to candidacy; and decided instead to grant Mr. Woudstra licensure for one year to preach in our churches contingent on his becoming a member of the Christian Reformed Church (Cf. Acts of Synod, 1952, Art. 50). Further Synod instructed him, that, if he would be engaged by the Home Missions Committee, he should be under its supervision, or otherwise under the supervision of the Classis in which he labors.

Finally, the Synod of 1952 recommended to our present Synod that, in case Mr. Woudstra satisfied the Classis under whose jurisdiction he would serve concerning Art. 31 of the Church Order, that he be declared a candidate for the Gospel ministry without further examination (Cf. Acts 1952, Art. 156).

In compliance with this decision of the Synod of 1952, Classis Alberta now presents the following overture:

"Classis Alberta, having examined Mr. Martin H. Woudstra, in accordance with the decision of the Synod of 1952, Acts, p. 94, as to his

views on Article 31 of the Church Order, and having received a favorable report concerning his work from the Consistory of Edmonton III under whom he has worked as stated supply;

1. declares that it is satisfied that Mr. Woudstra's views on Article 31 C.O. are sound, and therefore,

2. recommends to the Synod of 1953 that Mr. Woudstra be declared a candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

E. H. Oostendorp, S. C."

*C. Recommendation:*

1. That Synod adopt this overture of Classis Alberta.

2. That Synod herewith declare the candidacy of Mr. Martin H. Woudstra for the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, and that the Stated Clerk notify him of Synod's action. (Report of Adv. Com. Church Order continued in Art. 52). *Adopted.*

ARTICLE 41

A motion is made to admit all the young men mentioned in Art. 39 to candidacy. Elder G. Trap leads in prayer for the guidance of God. By ballot Synod unanimously decides to admit all. Calls may be extended to them after July 5, 1953.

ARTICLE 42

Synod again meets in open session. The candidates are called in. The President informs them of Synod's decision and exhorts them in stirring words centering around the three words found in Acts 5: Go, Stand, Preach! No. 295 is sung and Dr. G. Goris leads in prayer of thanksgiving. All the members of Synod receive opportunity to congratulate the candidates.

ARTICLE 43

The Stated Clerk reads the report of Rev. H. Baker, fraternal delegate to the General Synod of the Geref. Kerken in Nederland, held in August, 1952. The report is received as information. A matter in it re the "Commissie Van Koopvaardij" is referred to the committee on Home Missions. See Supplement 48.

ARTICLE 44

The Stated Clerk reads the report of the Synodical Committee. The report is received as information and the work approved. See Supplement No. 47.

ARTICLE 45

The Stated Clerk reads a report of his work. This is received with approval. See Supplement No. 47. The Stated Clerk also reads the report of the Transportation Secretary, and Synod approves.

## ARTICLE 46

The Stated Clerk read the report of Rev. C. Holtrop, our fraternal delegate to the General Assembly of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. This is received as information. See Supplement No. 47.

## ARTICLE 47

The Stated Clerk reads the report of Rev. M. Ouwinga, fraternal delegate to the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, at Denver, in September, 1952. This is received with approval. See Supplement No. 47.

## ARTICLE 48

The Stated Clerk reads the report of the Rev. E. A. Van Baak, fraternal delegate to the General Assembly of the Reformed Church in Japan. This is received with approval. See Supplement No. 47.

## ARTICLE 49

The Stated Clerk reads a letter of the Stated Clerk of the Reformed Church in Japan, conveying greetings and expressing thanks for help received by the coming of our missionaries. This is received with thanks and the Stated Clerk is instructed to make reply.

## ARTICLE 50

The Stated Clerk reads a letter from the 1952 Synod of the Reformed Churches in Australia expressing their desire to have full correspondence with the Christian Reformed Church. Referred to the Advisory Committee on Church Order.

## ARTICLE 51

The Stated Clerk reads a letter from the Kobe Reformed Seminary in Japan thanking us for a contribution received and asking for further support. Referred to the Budget Committee.

## ARTICLE 52

The report of the Advisory Committee on Church Order is taken up, Rev. A. Persenaire reporting: Cf. Art. 40.

## I. TENURE OF APPOINTMENTS:

A. *Materials*: Overtures 9 and 10.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod adopt the overture of Classis Hudson. *Adopted.*

2. Re the overture of Classis Chicago North,

Our committee recommends that Synod declare that the adoption of the overture of Classis Hudson automatically takes care of the matter brought up therein. *Adopted.*

## II. TRANSFER OF THE CHURCH OF SASKATOON, SASK., CANADA

A. *Materials*:

Overture 15 and Overture 34.

B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod grant the requests contained in the above overtures.

*Grounds:*

1. The grounds adduced by Classis Minnesota South are in harmony with the requirements stated in the Church Order re the transfer of a congregation from one Classis to another (Cf. Schaver's Polity of the Churches, Vol. II, p. 117, d.).

2. This is in harmony with the expressed wishes of all the parties concerned. *Adopted.*

## III. DUTCH VERSION OF BIBLE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP:

A. *Material:*

Overture 8.

B. *Contents:*

Classis Alberta "petitions the Synod of 1953 to recommend for the use of public worship in the Holland language the 'Bijbel in de Nieuwe Vertaling' (1951)."

C. *Evaluation:*

Your committee interprets the overture of Classis Alberta as requesting that Synod express a preference for the "Bijbel in de Nieuwe Vertaling" over the old "Staten Vertaling."

D. *Recommendations:*

1. Your Committee advises Synod to refrain from expressing any preference between these versions at this time.

*Grounds:*

a. Synod is at present not sufficiently acquainted with this new version.

b. It would be well to let some time elapse before deciding to give it preference. *Adopted.*

2. Further, we advise Synod to leave the choice between the "Bijbel in de Nieuwe Vertaling" and the "Staten Vertaling" to the discretion of the consistories on the grounds 1 and 2 of the Overture of Classis Alberta which are herewith given:

a. The 1952 Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands has unanimously recommended this version.

b. It has been accomplished with the aid of much labor by Prof. Grosheide, Prof. Aalders, Prof. Gispén and other leaders in the Gereformeerde Kerken. *Adopted.*

## IV. REFUND OF MOVING EXPENSES.

A. *Material:*

Overture 6.

B. *Elucidation:*

The rule to which the Classis refers states the following:

"If a minister serves a church only two years, and the moving ex-

penses have exceeded fifty dollars, the calling church shall refund to the church he leaves one-half of the expenses; if he serves only three years, one-fourth of the moving expenses. This decision shall be incorporated in the letter of call. Acts 1884, Art. 52. 9. 19; Acts 1890, Art. 63, p. 23."

The occasion for this overture was a concrete case involving a minister who left his church after having served it three years and three months. The question arose whether in accordance with the above rule, a part of the one-fourth of the moving expenses of this minister could still be claimed by the church which he left; or whether the rule excluded this possibility.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. Your committee advises Synod to declare that in case a congregation calls a minister who has been in his church three years and three months, this congregation is not required to refund any of the moving expenses, since the synodical rule clearly states "*only* three years."

2. We advise that Synod declare that this is its answer to the overture of Classis Sioux Center. (Church Order Matters continued in Art. 82). *Adopted.*

ARTICLE 53

Synod decides to meet Monday morning at 10 A.M. Rev. G. J. Vander Ziel offers the closing prayer.

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**SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 13**  
**Sixth Session**

ARTICLE 54

Synod sings to the praise of God in the words of Psalter Hymnal No. 314 and Rev. H. Moes leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 55

The Roll Call reveals that Elder R. Koning is absent and that Elder T. Hoeksema is replaced by Elder R. Van Til, who expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity.

ARTICLE 56

The minutes of the Friday sessions are read and approved.

ARTICLE 57

The Advisory Committee on *Publication Matters*, Rev. J. Petersen reporting, presents the following:

I. HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 11 — Supplement No. 11.

B. *Recommendation:*

We have incorporated point 3 of the report in our material re the observance of the denominational centennial. *Received as information.*

II. OBSERVANCE OF DENOMINATIONAL CENTENNIAL

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 11; See Supplement No. 11. Overtures Nos. 3, 4, 43.

B. *Recommendation:*

Your committee advises that Synod appoint a representative committee whose duty it will be to present to Synod of 1954 a set of plans for church-wide observance of this milestone — incorporating such programs, celebrations, publications, and memorials as may be suitable and significant.

*Grounds:*

1. The century of existence through critical years of our denominational and national history has been possible only by the providence of God, to whom the praise of our people should be directed in a special way.

2. Proper observance of this centennial will benefit both young and old.

3. Previous anniversaries have been suitably commemorated. Cf. 1907, 1932, and 1934 (also Calvin Jubilee 1951). See Art. 164 for Committee Appointed). *Adopted.*

III. PUBLICATION OF SERMONS FOR READING SERVICES

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 28. See Supplement No. 28.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod gratefully acknowledge the work the committee has done in securing the publication of volume 9 for reading services and its present work on volume 10. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod postpone the execution of the decision to publish books on the Catechism until there shall be a more general demand for them, and urge consistories to use for reading services Catechism sermons which are now on the market. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod receive as information the report concerning the work being continued in the matter of recorded sermons. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod continue the committee for another year. See Art. 164. *Adopted.*

IV. THE SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 36. See Supplement No. 36.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That three men instead of two be elected by Synod each year, bringing the total to nine men instead of eight, thus giving a two-thirds continuity to the committee.

2. That the names suggested by the tract committee be submitted to the committee on appointments. See Art. 164 for appointments.

3. That Synod express appreciation for the labors of the retiring members Professor L. Berkhof and Mr. P. B. Petersen. *Adopted.*

#### V. BUILDING FOR DENOMINATIONAL OFFICES AND PRINTING PLANT

##### A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Report No. 44, See Supplement No. 44.
2. Agenda Report No. 45, See Supplement No. 45.
3. Joint report and proposal of denominational building committee and publication committee.

##### B. *History:*

In 1945 Synod appointed a committee "to study the feasibility of a denominational building to provide offices and committee rooms for the various denominational agencies." Negotiations were entered into for desirable property once and again but without success. Meanwhile, the Publication Committee, also in search of a new site, was able to take an option on property on the S.E. corner of Kalamazoo Ave. and the Beltline in Grand Rapids. The Denominational Building Committee has joined forces with the Publication Committee in seeking Synod's approval of this site. However, a report came to Synod of 1952 that the Church had been offered a building in Chicago. A committee investigating this proposition seeks Synod's approval for the latter property. See Supplement No. 45.

C. *Comment:* Your advisory committee recognizes some value in the arguments of those who favor the Chicago building, as:

1. It is substantial and large.
2. Our Back to God literature could be printed by our own presses.
3. The publication office and radio office would use the same mailing facilities.
4. The circulation of our weeklies would be speeded.
5. The building, being promised as a gift, has an estimated value of from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

However, we feel that the arguments against the Chicago site and in favor of the Grand Rapids site far outweigh these considerations, as:

1. No written offer for the Chicago building has been made. There is an oral promise that this property will be given to our church, but not till after the death of the owner and his brother.

2. The building would have to be remodeled for our purposes at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Even the committee which favors this site recognizes that the wise course might be to sell this building and establish elsewhere in the Chicago area.



3. The cost of the production of our church publications in Chicago would be an estimated 15% higher than at present.

4. The proposed financing of the Grand Rapids project would not entail any extra appropriation from Synod, inasmuch as the Publication Committee and the Denominational Building Committee, according to their joint report, are able to provide the funds.

D. *Recommendation*: In view of these latter considerations your committee advises:

1. That Synod authorize the Denominational Building Committee and the Publication Committee to purchase a nine acre tract of land on the south-east corner of Kalamazoo Ave. and 28th St., Grand Rapids, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000, for the purpose of building thereon a combined denominational building and an enlarged printing establishment.

2. That Synod authorize the committees above named to proceed with the erection of the joint building along the lines as set forth in the joint proposal and sketches submitted to Synod.

While this is under discussion attention is called to the report on the Chicago Building. They request opportunity to defend their report before Synod. In order to give them this opportunity the matter in hand is tabled. Cf. Art. 62.

#### IV. IMPROVEMENT AND REVISION OF THE PSALTER HYMNAL AND SYNODICALLY APPROVED HYMN BOOK

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 40, 40-A. See Supplement 40, 40-A.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That the secretary of the revision committee, Rev. D. L. Van Halsema, be granted the privilege of the floor. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod approve the following statement of principle:

*Principle: The Music of the Church Should Be  
Appropriate for Worship*

1. *The music of the church should be liturgical* — In spirit, form, and content it must be a positive expression of Scripturally religious thought and feeling. It should serve the ministry of the Word.

2. *The music of the church should be beautiful* — Its religious thought or spirit should be appropriately embodied in the music as music, the poetry as poetry, and the blending of these in song. It should satisfy the aesthetic laws of balance, unity, variety, harmony, design, rhythm, restraint, and fitness which are the conditions of all art.

*Adopted.*

3. That Synod approve the following "*Implications of the Principle*" as given by the committee:

*Implications:*

1. The music of the Church should represent the full range of the revelation of God.

2. The minister of the Word, on the one hand, and the organist and the choir director on the other, should constantly cooperate, so that the service of music will contribute to the service of the Word.

3. The music of the songs should be artistically defensible as good music; it should not have to rely upon the words to carry it. The poetry of the songs should be good poetry; it should not have to rely upon the music to carry it.

4. Whenever Psalms or other portions of Scripture are involved, the poetry of the songs should be true to the inspired Word. Such poetry should at the same time be vital — free from the defects of artificiality and sentimentality.

5. Whenever songs other than versifications of portions of Scripture are involved, the poetry should be genuinely expressive of religious experience, but should also be in harmony with the whole counsel of God.

6. The music of the Church should be suitable to the liturgical text to which it has been adapted. It should be free from association with the currently secular or with anything that does violence to our Reformed conception of worship.

7. The music of the Church should not be borrowed from that of the dance nor from concert or other music which suggests places and occasions other than the church and the worship service.

8. Such devices as extreme syncopation and extreme chromaticism (although on occasion these may be of value for special text settings) should generally be avoided.

9. Great care must be exercised by the organist and choir director in selecting organ music and anthems, lest a secular association with the music interfere with the worshipper's service.

10. The music of the Church should be expressive of our Reformed tradition and, so far as possible, should make use of the Genevan Psalm tunes and other music of Calvinistic inspiration.

Synod decides to recommend these "Implications" to the churches for study.

4. *That Synod approve the plan for Revision of the Psalter-Hymnal*  
In light of the above principle adopted by the committee, the following was accomplished:

A. *With respect to the text* — The text was studied from various angles:

1. Faithful representation of the Psalm text as far as possible.

2. Theological soundness of the hymns.

3. Literary quality of the verse.

4. In the light of these standards, evaluation of the Psalter section began with a comparison of our present metrical versions with numerous English praise books of Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and other churches, and taking into consideration the work in English which has been done by the Rev. Hasper in the Netherlands and by Dawson in England.

B. *With respect to the music* —

1. Once a suitable text was adopted, the music was studied for its appropriateness to that text and its suitability for use in congregational song.

2. Recognizing the importance of our Psalm-singing tradition, the Committee plans to use as many of the Genevan Psalm tunes as possible. Further, in line with recent developments in the Netherlands and in America, the committee is seriously considering the notation of these Psalm tunes in their original rhythm.

3. In the evaluation of the first forty Psalms as found in the Psalter-Hymnal (numbers 1-78), your committee has established a procedure on the basis of which individual songs have been included in, or excluded from, the proposed revision of the Psalter-Hymnal:

a. Adoption of text for each Psalm, chosen either from present Psalter-Hymnal or another source.

b. Provision of enough separate songs to cover the content of each Psalm, eliminating some of the duplication now present in our Psalter-Hymnal.

c. Provision of appropriate music to accompany text, avoiding unwarranted borrowings and duplications.

With respect to the selection of hymns, the following procedure has been adopted:

a. Review of topical index and determining the number of hymns for each classification.

b. Evaluation of present hymns (texts and tunes) in light of principle.

c. Nomination of new hymns to meet goal indicated in "a".

C. *The results to date* — a tabulation covering results of committee efforts through December 30, 1952 (Fifth Meeting) is presented in an appendix to this report, and should be referred to at this point.

Synod approves the plan with the proviso that this does not imply approval or disapproval of the specific details of the plan.

5. That Synod approve the recommendations of the committee concerning a Synodically-Approved Hymn Book:

A. That *at this time* Synod does not publish a *new* Youth Hymnal.  
*Grounds:* 1. Any comprehensive new hymnal would in a large measure duplicate the *New Christian Hymnal*.

2. Our questionnaires returned do not reflect a widespread need for a different type of Hymnal. *Adopted*.

B. That Synod secure permission from the editor and publishers to revise the *New Christian Hymnal*.

*Grounds:* 1. Most of the users of this Hymnal find it generally satisfactory.

2. The ideas suggested in our mandate and in the questionnaire returns could be incorporated in the revised Hymnal. *Rejected*.

6. That Synod approve the "*Plan for Temporary Editors*" as suggested by the committee:

*Concerning the Plan for Temporary Editors* — Your Committee (for Psalter-Hymnal revision) requests Synod to authorize an honorarium of five-hundred dollars each to two of its members, to be designated temporary co-editors of the Psalter Hymnal revision committee, for determining and preparing the text and the music for recommendation to the Committee. The functions and grounds are listed herewith.

A. *Duties of the Temporary Editor of the Text*

1. To make a comparative study of all available metrical versions of the Psalms.

2. To recommend to the revision Committee the best versions available as determined by:

- a. Scriptural fidelity
- b. Poetic effectiveness

3. To recommend modifications of existing metrical versions where these are possible and feasible.

4. To suggest ways of procuring new metrical versions of Psalms for which the existing versions are not acceptable.

5. To judge of the poetic quality of the hymn texts now included in the Psalter Hymnal and of hymn texts being considered by the revision Committee for inclusion in the proposed revised Psalter Hymnal.

6. To cooperate with the Editor of Music in recommending to the revision Committee those versions of the Psalms and Hymns which are suited to the music he recommends.

B. *Duties of the Temporary Editor of the Music*

1. To continue the work of evaluating Psalm tunes and hymn tunes now in the Psalter Hymnal. To make recommendations concerning the retention or deletion of tunes.

2. To recommend substitute melodies for Psalm versifications and hymn texts where needed.

3. In cooperation with the Temporary Editor of the Text to recommend music for new texts for which we now have no suitable melodies.

4. In cooperation with the Temporary Editor of the Text to make recommendations concerning new hymns to fill in those topical areas which are deficient in our present Psalter Hymnal.

5. To prepare a first draft of the proposed new Psalter Hymnal for submission to the revision Committee at its August meeting, the size of this draft to be determined by progress made during the summer.

6. To recommend to the revision Committee at its August meeting a revised topical index based on the results of questionnaires to be sent out by the committee this Summer.

7. To check source materials for composers, authors, dates, and other bibliographical information which must be verified for publication.

It is expected that the Temporary Editors shall have the advice of all members of the revision Committee available during the Summer, and that they shall keep the members of this Committee informed as to their progress. The work of the Temporary Editors shall be subject to full review by the Committee on revision before (subsequent) submission to Synod.

### C. *Grounds for Authorization of Temporary Editors*

1. The revision Committee is convinced that the sustained and concentrated work of two such designated editors will make for *economy* of time and of money. (The expense of bringing the revision Committee together is an important item. Because of the distances involved in travel, the revision Committee must spend approximately \$200 for each meeting. The technical work involved in research and study by all committee members who are assigned projects would demand that more time should be spent in Grand Rapids meetings than would be financially feasible. Your revision Committee unanimously believes that this plan of work by two Temporary Editors will represent a great saving to the Church.)

2. The *nature* of the work outlined above is such as cannot be well or expeditiously done in full committee at periodic meetings.

3. The nature of the work outlined is so *demanding* of time and energy as to go beyond the pale of what can reasonably be expected from revision Committee members with academic and Church responsibilities during most of the year.

4. The revision Committee is convinced that the work outlined must be done soon if their work is to be completed two years from date. (Intensive work by two qualified and responsible Temporary Editors will enable the revision Committee to cover as much work in one "review

meeting" as could be done in two years of work as it has been carried on thus far. Under this plan the revision Committee should be able to present a completed Psalter Hymnal revision within two years. Any other system of work would mean four to five years of work, as was the experience of previous committees who worked on the first Psalter-Hymnal.)

5. The nature of the research and evaluation work requires specialized professional qualifications.

6. Experience of similar committees in other denominations confirms the value of engaging specialists for completing assignments involving research and evaluation (cf. Reformed praise book editions from 1790 onward and current "Pan-Presbyterian" compilation to appear soon).

*Adopted.*

7. That Synod continue the present revision committee until Synod of 1955. See Art. 164 for Committee.

8. That Synod receive as information the preliminary results of their labors. *Adopted.*

#### VII. PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

##### A. *Material:*

Agenda Report No. 22. See Supplement No. 22.

##### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod approve the appointment of Mr. Adrian Vanden Bout to fill out the term which Mr. Herman Fles could not accept.

*Adopted.*

2. That Synod select from the following nominees:

a. In the place of Professor Berkhof: The Revs. John Mulder and Thomas Yff.

b. In the place of Mr. Fred Van Kleef: Mr. John Peterson and Mr. Raymond Van Kuiken.

c. For the place of Rev. C. Boomsma: Rev. C. O. Buus and Rev. C. Boomsma.

Synod decided to give opportunity for nominations from the floor.

3. That the editorship of our Sunday school papers Synod retain the Revs. John Schaal and Richard De Ridder, to continue until such a time as the proposed new series may begin. *Adopted.*

C. Your advisory committee reminds Synod that if the new publications are approved, a new editor-in-chief must be appointed. (Report of Committee on Publication Matters Continued in Art. 134.)

#### ARTICLE 58

Synod recesses till 10 A.M., Monday. Elder R. Rozema leads in thanksgiving and prayer to God.

**MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 15****Seventh Session****ARTICLE 59**

At 10 A.M. Synod is called to order. No. 90:1-3 is sung and Rev. J. De Kruyter invokes the divine blessing.

**ARTICLE 60**

Roll Call is held. Elder R. Koning is absent with permission. Prof. M. Berghuis is present in the place of Elder M. Kulikamp. He expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity. Rev. G. Vander Riet has returned as delegate of Classis Kalamazoo and Elder T. Hoeksema as delegate of Classis Holland.

**ARTICLE 61**

The minutes of the sixth session are read and approved.

**ARTICLE 62**

Synod returns to the report of the Advisory Committee on *Publication Matters* (Cf. Art. 57) dealing with the *Denominational Building*.

Rev. J. F. Schuurmann presents the report of the study committee re The Chicago Building and recommends that Synod authorize the moving of our Publication Plant to the Chicago Building. See Supplement No. 45.

*Grounds:*

1. It would mean the consolidation of our printing efforts. Even though the labor costs are higher in Chicago, this would be offset by having the Back to God printing done by our plant.

2. It would unite our efforts to evangelize by the printed page.

3. It would mean that The Banner could arrive by Sunday in all the areas of our denomination.

4. In the event that Synod should decide to make Chicago the center of any of our other Boards or Committees there would be ample space in this building for offices.

Note: When the building becomes available to us and before we remodel, it would be wise to investigate the possibilities of erecting a new building. It might be to our advantage to sell the building and then to build a new one elsewhere in the Chicago area, instead of remodelling the present building. *Synod Rejected the Advice.*

Mr. Herman Baker presents now the report of the study committee on the *Denominational Building*. See Supplement No. 44.

The advice of the advisory committee is amended to read:

1. That Synod authorize the Denominational Building Committee and the Publication Committee to purchase a nine acre tract of land on the south-east corner of Kalamazoo Ave. and 28th St., Grand Rapids, at

a cost not to exceed \$50,000, for the purpose of building thereon a denominational building and enlarged printing establishment.

2. That Synod authorize the committees above named to proceed with the erection of the joint building along the lines as set forth in the joint proposal and sketches submitted to Synod, without further appropriation from Synod, and provided zoning regulations will permit.

*Grounds:*

a. The situation of the property is very desirable as to location and accessibility. The possibilities as to beautification are ample and the whole layout will be a credit to our denomination.

b. Parking facilities will be ample and eating facilities will very likely be available shortly as a National Restaurant Chain has been scouting around for a site in the vicinity.

c. It is in a fast-growing neighborhood and our people are moving into it in great numbers.

d. The joint building will work for economy in heating, janitor service, and possible joint use of office help. *Adopted.* See Art. 66, 67. (See Art. 164 for Committee Appointment).

ARTICLE 63

Synod adjourns and Elder M. Smith offers the closing prayer.

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**MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15**

**Eighth Session**

ARTICLE 64

Synod sings No. 340:1, 2, 5, and Elder J. Langeland leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 65

Our Secretary of Missions, the Rev. Henry Evenhouse, introduces various Missionaries who are present at Synod. He calls attention to the fact that there are no representatives present from Japan, Formosa, or India. He introduces Rev. D. E. Houseman who addresses Synod as representative of the Mission force on the Indian Field. Rev. Houseman stresses the fact that all of the work of the Kingdom is the work of all of us even though we work in different departments of that Kingdom. He is thankful that as missionaries they may represent an organized church. This makes difficult work much easier. He then speaks of some of the difficulties which they face on the field. There is progress even though sometimes it may be difficult to see it. The Zuni people are in unrest. The old religion is losing its hold on them. They are becoming more accessible. He calls for the future prayers of our people and for further support from the home front.



Rev. Evenhouse then introduces Dr. L. Bos, Rev. and Mrs. W. Goudberg, Lucille and Sylvia Westendorp, Mrs. Houseman, Roland Kamps, Arthur Bosscher, Jean Kruis, Thressa Van Houw, and Gertrude Van Haitsma, all workers on our Indian field.

Juan Coonsis, a convert from our Zuni field is now called on to speak. He gives a personal testimony as to what the Lord has come to mean to him and what the missionaries have done for him.

Next Rev. Evenhouse calls on Mrs. Nell Smith to address Synod on behalf of the force in Nigeria. He also introduces Miss Geraldine Vanden Berg who will soon go to Africa as a teacher. Mrs. Smith then brings the greetings of the Nigerian Council. She expresses gratitude for the increase in the staff on the African field. She also brings greetings from the Classis which has been formed of the Churches in that field. Attention is called to some of the difficulties which confront them, especially some of the moral problems, but assures us that the workers and the Consistories there are taking a very firm stand. She makes mention of progress which is being made in organizational ways in that men are now able to serve as clerks and treasurers for the churches, work which otherwise had to be done by the missionaries themselves. Some of the very obstinate tribes are manifesting a change. The School work is definitely indigenous. The medical work is making fine strides under the leadership of Dr. Davis and they are anticipating the arrival of a woman doctor. She too pleads for continued prayers and asks that we remember the challenge which the Tiv field presents.

Rev. Evenhouse then calls on Mr. Ananda Perera, representing Ceylon, who brings the greetings from his church on Ceylon and expresses their appreciation of the assistance which the laborers sent by our Church are giving. He calls for more men to help in their difficult position there.

To all this Prof. R. B. Kuiper fittingly responds, stating that there is a gratifying increase in the mission interest in our churches. He states that of all denominations we should be most interested since we have the strongest motive and the highest aim for mission work. He encourages the missionaries to exert faithfulness to the Word and to work with zeal unto God's glory. This gathering is closed with the singing of No. 396.

#### ARTICLE 66

Referring once more to the Denominational Building (Cf. Arts. 57, 62, 67) a motion is made that Synod express its gratitude to the brother who has made provision that the building on 109th St. and Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois, shall eventually become the property of the Christian Reformed Church by way of bequest, and that a committee be appointed to continue in re this matter, and that the Back to God

Hour Committee, which occupies space in this building, be appointed for that purpose. *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 67

Two members of Synod who have done a little investigating on their own initiative, report that they see other possibilities of ground for the Denominational Building (Art. 62), at a much lower price. A motion to reconsider the matter is made and supported. Messrs. Baker and Hertel of the investigating committee are heard in detail. Questions are asked and answered. The motion to reconsider the matter is defeated. See also Arts. 57, 62, 66.

## ARTICLE 68

The Advisory Committee on *Home Missions* recommends that Synod invite the Rev. C. L. Van Zee to appear before its Home Missions Committee, and, if necessary, before Synod, in re the Alaska matter. See Supplement 21-B.

*Grounds:*

1. Rev. Van Zee's statement as to his availability,
2. To give the brother every possible opportunity for a hearing,
3. The serious charges which he alleges against Synod's standing committee on Home Missions. *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 69

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Home Missions*, Rev. J. De Kruyter reporting:

## I. REALIGNMENT OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION.

A. *Material.*

Agenda Report No. 31. See Supplement No. 31.

B. *Summary of Reports:*1. *Majority Opinion:*

a. Believing that there is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own brethren, believing that our present organizational structure of mission agencies does not reflect division of work according to inherent principle, believing that every denominational committee and board should be representatively constituted, and believing there is a want of integration and unification in our mission work; the majority proposes an organizational change which, they believe, will help to solve our difficulties.

b. The Three Committees proposed are: Foreign Mission, Home Mission, Denominational Service. For their suggested duties, see Agenda, pp. 205-210. (See Supplement No. 31)

2. *Minority Opinion:*

a. The minority believes that a separation of mission work among

the unchurched and unbelieving from church extension work among our own brethren is not necessary nor desirable, that the plan proposed has serious drawbacks, and that such a plan will unwarrantedly increase the demand on the time and service of more of our ministers, that much of the work of the third board is of an emergency nature and will in due time be considerably reduced, and that our problem is deeper than that of reorganization.

b. Hence the minority recommends the retention of our present organizational structure with the following changes: The work of South America and Ceylon be given to the Foreign Missions Board, Jewish Evangelism be placed under the Home Missions Committee, and the assignment of the publication of literature designed as denominational witness to the outside to the BTGH Committee.

C. *Recommendations.*

1. That Synod do not adopt the plan of reorganization proposed by the majority report.

*Grounds:*

a. The strict separation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" from "church extension work among our own Christian brethren" is neither necessary nor desirable.

b. The plan of the majority gives too prominent and permanent status to work that ought to be considered of a temporary and emergency nature, and encourages ecclesiastical paternalism.

c. There is a more basic need than that of reorganization if we are to strengthen our mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving.

1. An efficient integration and coordination of our ministry efforts.
2. A determined purpose to use our congregations and to mobilize them as missionary agencies.
3. A determined purpose to bring the unchurched and unbelieving into the Church of Christ.

During the discussion on this recommendation Rev. W. P. Brink speaks for the majority of the study committee on Realignment and Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft speaks for the minority of that committee.

Synod decides to defer action on both the majority and the minority reports and recommends them to the churches for study.

2. That Synod instruct our Home Missions Committee to take steps to coordinate and integrate our mission effort and mobilize our congregations as missionary agencies. This is deferred.

3. Recommendation re transfer of Jewish Evangelism to the administration of the Home Missions Committee, is also deferred.

## II. PATERSON HEBREW MISSION.

A. *Material.*

1. Agenda Report No. 2. See Supplement No. 2.
2. Overtures No. 1 and No. 42.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work done by the Board. *Adopted.*
2. That Synod approve the Board's action in purchasing a home for the new missionary, Rev. Muir. *Adopted.*
3. That the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of one classis.

*Grounds:*

- a. The two classes meet at different times and at different intervals each year. Because of this there is great delay in action and even conflict.
- b. Being under one classis, a much closer and more efficient system of administration might be inaugurated. *Adopted.*
4. That the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of Classis Hackensack.
  - a. The superintendent is associate pastor of one of the churches of Hackensack.
  - b. Hackensack requests this arrangement. Classis Hudson has presented no request, nor stated any objection. *Adopted.*
5. That Synod ask Classis Hackensack through the Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission to study the feasibility of continuing the work on its present limited basis and/or of expanding its effort.

*Grounds:*

- a. The limited results of the work.
- b. A question presented by the workers themselves in their report, namely: "How long shall we remain in a district in which there are no apparent converts?" *Adopted.*

## III. CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION.

A. *Material*

Agenda Report No. 6. See Supplement No. 6.

B. *Recommendations*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work done by the Board.
2. We draw Synod's attention to the receipt of approximately twelve thousand dollars from the Jansma estate for the purpose of Jewish Missions and urge Synod to recommend that the Chicago Jewish Mission Board take steps to activate this money in the cause of Jewish Evangelism.

*Grounds:*

- a. Admitted use of it as a "cushion."
  - b. It was given for the purpose of *use* in Jewish Evangelism.
3. Decided that the Stated Clerk shall express the thanks of Synod for the labors of Mr. Geo. Ottenhof in behalf of Jewish Missions. *Adopted.*
4. In this connection Rev. A. De Kruyter for the Board of Nathanael Institute requests that in view of the changed nature of this work Missionary Albert Huisjen be placed under the supervision of the Home Missions Committee. Referred to advisory committee on Home Missions. *Adopted.*

## IV. CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE.

A. *Material*

Agenda Report No. 8, 8-A. See Supplement No. 8, 8-A.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work of the Committee. *Adopted.*
2. Synod endorse the committee's plea for chaplains. (Home Missions Report Continued in Art. 76). *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 70

Synod recesses till Tuesday morning and the Rev. E. Joling leads in a closing prayer.

**TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 16****Ninth Session**

## ARTICLE 71

Psalter-Hymnal No. 90:1,5 is sung and Elder A. Klingenberg brings our petitions before the Throne of Grace.

## ARTICLE 72

Roll Call reveals that Elder M. Kulikamp has returned, also Elder R. Koning. Elder S. Wabeke is present as delegate of Classis Zeeland instead of H. Sall, and expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity.

## ARTICLE 73

The minutes of the Monday sessions are read and approved.

## ARTICLE 74

The President proposes that Synod send a communication to Dr. and Mrs. C. Bouma, assuring them of our continued interest in the condition of Dr. Bouma, and of our prayers for strength in the day of visitation, and for Dr. Bouma's complete recovery. *Synod so decides.*

## ARTICLE 75

Whereas Elder S. Wabeke was recently bereaved by the loss of his father, Synod extends to him its sympathy in his loss.

## ARTICLE 76

Synod returns to the report of the Advisory Committee on *Home Missions* Cf. Arts. 68, 69, Rev. J. De Kruyter reporting.

## I. THE SEAMEN'S HOME.

A. *Material*

1. Agenda Report No. 3. See Supplement No. 3.
2. Overtures 40 and 41.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. Synod acknowledge the work of the Board. *Adopted.*
2. Synod place the Seamen's Home under the jurisdiction of one classis. *Overture 41. Ground:* The Home can be more efficiently operated by one classis. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod place the Home under the jurisdiction of Classis Hudson. *Ground:* The spiritual work at the Seamen's Home is closely connected with the Hoboken Christian Reformed Church of Classis Hudson. *Adopted.*

4. Synod do not accede to the request of the Board to place the title to the property used by the Hoboken Church in the hands of the Executive Committee of Home Missions. See Overture 40.

*Grounds:*

a. It has been the policy of the Home Missions Committee to desist from such responsibilities when the organization of such churches is affected.

b. To do so would set an unfortunate precedent. *Adopted.*

5. That Synod instruct the Seamen's Home Board to try to negotiate the sale of the property to the Hoboken Church in name of Synod.

*Ground:*

It is an organized congregation and ought to assume this responsibility. *Adopted.*

## II. SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON.

A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Reports 10, 10-A. See Supplements 10, 10-A.
2. Documents from two physicians, from the La Grave Ave. Consistory, and from the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work of the committee. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod approve the steps which have been taken for the calling and support of Seminarian John Samuel Boonstra upon graduation for service in Argentina.

Decided to hold this matter in abeyance and to instruct the standing committee on South America and Ceylon to present to the next Synod advice on the continuation of the work in South America and Ceylon and elucidation of the expenses involved.

3. That Synod accede to the request of the committee for an additional minister to Ceylon.

*Grounds:*

a. The obvious need for such a man as indicated by the request of the General Consistory. Five men are manning nine churches. A bit of a schism has developed. A program of home missions in Ceylon must still be inaugurated.

b. The willingness of the Rev. J. O. Schuring to return to Ceylon.

c. The apparent opening of the way for the sending of the Schurings.

1. Both are in excellent health now.

2. La Grave Ave. Consistory is willing to call and support up to \$5000. Two other consistories are eager to contribute. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod recommend that the committee proceed to seek a calling and supporting church for the student to graduate next year who wishes to go with John S. Boonstra to Argentina.

*Grounds:*

1. There are several places analogous to our home mission stations or small congregations without a pastor.

a. Mar del Platta — 17 families.

b. San Francisco de Belloc — 20 to 30 families.

c. Others, such as Galvez, Rosario, etc.

b. The proposed plan of Mr. Boonstra that Mar del Platta become the charge of one man and San Francisco de Belloc the charge of another.

c. Rev. J. Pott, as well as Mr. Boonstra, have repeatedly stressed that the ordained ministers are greatly overburdened by the work of the congregations and of these mission stations.

d. Rev. Pott has gone so far as to suggest that another minister be obtained from the Netherlands if necessary. Mr. Boonstra suggests this would not be advisable because our home mission methods are preferred.

*Defeated.*

5. A motion is made to instruct the standing committee on South America and Ceylon to correspond with the churches and classis in South America to effect some arrangement whereby a church or the

classis will take over the support of Mr. Boonstra when his studies have been completed and he is ready to enter the ministry. *Adopted.*  
(Home Mission Report Continued in Art. 105).

## ARTICLE 77

Rev. L. Van Laar, member of the Reception Committee, presents Rev. Robert Churchill, representative of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Mr. Churchill brings the greetings from his Church, dwells on our common faith, our adherence to the Word of God, our united approach to the cause of Christian Education and our common aim to bring the world into the knowledge of the Lord. Rev. E. Tanis responds for Synod.

## ARTICLE 78

Synod meets in executive session to consider the report of the Advisory Committee on *Protests and Appeals*, Rev. C. Boomsma reporting:

## I. SYNODICAL EXAMINERS REPORTS RE: THE REV. PETER VOS CASE.

A. *Materials*

1. Report of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center on March 23, 1953.
2. Report of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center on April 8, 1953.
3. Report of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Minnesota North on April 21, 1953.
4. Majority report of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Minnesota North on April 21, 1953.
5. Minority report of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Minnesota North on April 21, 1953.
6. Documents of Classis Sioux Center re: the Rev. P. Vos Case.
7. Documents of Classis Minnesota North re: the Rev. P. Vos Case.

B. *Analysis of the case*

1. The Reverend Peter Vos committed sins against the Seventh Commandment worthy of deposition while a minister of the Holland Center Church in 1948. All the involved parties, including the Rev. P. Vos, are agreed on this fact.
2. The sins were committed while Rev. P. Vos was a member of Classis Sioux Center, but came to the attention of the classis after his departure to the Bejou Church in Classis Minnesota North. Classis Sioux Center, therefore, with the advice of the Synodical Examiners requested Classis Minnesota North to depose the Rev. P. Vos.
3. Classis Minnesota North decided that: "in view of his (the Rev. P. Vos) confession and repentance expressed before our body, the



irregularities of procedure in connection with the whole case, the lapse of time, and his faithful work in the Bejou congregation, he be continued in his office."

4. The advice of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Minnesota North was divided on the question of deposition, but they were unanimous in recommending immediate suspension from office, and advised that the question whether the extenuating circumstances obviated disciplinary action be referred to Synod.

C. *Observations*

1. Synod must approve or disapprove the work of the Synodical Examiners and therefore the matter requires Synodical action.

2. There are no protests against or appeals from the decision of Classis Minnesota North before Synod.

D. *Recommendations*

1. Your committee recommends that Synod approve the advice of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center on March 23, 1953, that the responsibility for initiating action in the Rev. P. Vos case properly belonged to Classis Sioux Center.

*Grounds:*

a. The origin and history of the case lies within Classis Sioux Center when the Rev. P. Vos was a minister of this classis.

b. Classis Sioux Center had signed and forwarded the regular ministerial credentials to Classis Minnesota, which if the facts had then been known, could not have been so transferred. *Adopted.*

2. Your committee recommends that Synod do not approve the advice of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center on March 23, 1953, that the responsibility of expressing judgment, in the sense of adjudicating the case, properly belonged to Classis Sioux Center, although Synod recognizes the right of Classis Sioux Center to advise Classis Minnesota North in the matter.

*Grounds:*

a. Classis Sioux Center had signed and forwarded his ministerial credentials to Classis Minnesota.

b. The Rev. P. Vos was therefore a minister of Classis Minnesota North and as such under the jurisdiction of his classis. *Adopted.*

3. Your committee recommends that Synod do not approve the advice of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center on March 23, 1953, and again on April 8, 1953 that Classis Sioux Center ask Classis Minnesota North "to give proper execution to the matter" as decided by Classis Sioux Center and that Classis Sioux Center itself "either exonerate the brother or prosecute the charges to their proper end."

*Ground:*

It was not the responsibility of Classis Sioux Center to adjudicate the case of the Rev. P. Vos, who was under the jurisdiction of Classis Minnesota North. *Adopted.*

4. Your committee recommends that Synod declare that Classis Minnesota North erred in not appealing the case to Synod for adjudication when its judgment differed from that of the Synodical Examiners.

*Ground:*

When the Classis and the Synodical Examiners differ in so serious a matter, it ought to be referred to Synod. *Adopted.*

5. Your committee recommends that Synod appoint a committee to investigate the matter *in loco* and seek to resolve the differences between Classis Minnesota North and the Synodical Examiners so that Classis Minnesota North may adjudicate the case in conformity with the agreement reached, and in the event such adjudication is not achieved to advise the next Synod.

*Grounds:*

a. Synod cannot now take final action without a thorough investigation of the case,

b. Although there are no protests or appeals before Synod, Synod must approve or disapprove the advice of the Synodical Examiners to Classis Minnesota North on April 21, and such a committee can properly advise Synod. *Adopted.*

6. Synod decides that this committee should complete its work before the fall meeting of Classis Minnesota North. See Art. 164.

7. Your committee recommends that Synod permit the Rev. P. Vos to function as minister of the Word and Sacraments in only the Bejou Church until the case is adjudicated.

*Grounds:*

a. The consistory of the Bejou Church desires his continued service.

b. The question of suspension from office is itself part of the difference between Classis Minnesota North and the Synodical Examiners.

8. Your committee finally recommends that Synod hold in abeyance its judgment of the rest of the advice given by the Synodical Examiners to Classis Sioux Center and to Classis Minnesota North until the above-mentioned committee reports to Synod. *Adopted.*

Report of Protests and Appeals Continued in Art. 81.

## ARTICLE 79

Synod adjourns and Rev. J. Vander Meer leads in the closing prayer.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 16**  
**Tenth Session**

ARTICLE 80

Psalter-Hymnal No. 281:1,3 is sung and Rev. H. Sonnema voices the prayer of the assembly.

ARTICLE 81

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Protests and Appeals* Cf. Art. 78, is considered, Rev. C. Boomsma, reporting.

*Appeal of Mr. Walter Swets Jr. vs. the Consistory of Bethany Church, South Holland, Illinois and Classis Chicago South.*

A. *Materials*

1. Documents that were before the Synod of 1952.
2. Copy of the Minutes of Classis Chicago South and the Consistory of Bethany Church re the Walter Swets case since the Synod of 1952.
3. Appeal of Mr. Swets to Synod of 1953.
4. Letter from Mrs. Effie Swets and Mrs. Henry De Valk.

B. *Analysis of the case.*

1. Mr. Swets is under the censure of the consistory of the Bethany Church on two grounds:

a. He had made himself guilty of adultery upon which ground a decree of divorce was granted to Mrs. Bernice Swets.

b. Mr. Swets remarried and according to the decisions of Synod is now living in the sin of adultery.

2. Mr. Swets answers these grounds as follows:

a. Regarding the charge of adultery, Mr. Swets denies having committed this sin and insists that although Mrs. Bernice Swets was granted a divorce on the ground of adultery by the civil court, it was obtained through legal maneuvering.

b. Although Mr. Swets nowhere makes the charge of adultery against Mrs. Bernice Swets he did charge that to his mind her relationships with a third party were such as to cause her to press for divorce. The consistory refused to investigate his charge and permitted Mrs. Swets and the third party to marry and remain members in full communion in the church.

c. Regarding the second ground of censure, Mr. Swets is not clear in his defense for on the one hand he declares that he disagrees with the stand of the church regarding the remarriage of divorced parties, (he does not protest the stand of the church in his defense) and on the other hand implies that the conduct of his wife somehow permits him to remarry.

3. The answer of the consistory and classis to Mr. Swets' defense is that:

a. Mr. Swets fails to produce evidence to discredit the ground of adultery charged in the divorce granted by the civil court.

b. Mr. Swets' second marriage now makes him guilty of adultery whether the divorce was obtained on biblical or unbiblical grounds by his wife.

4. The Synod of 1952 referred the matter to Classic Chicago South for further investigation *in loco* on the ground that: "Although there are several definite violations of the moral law in the life of Mr. Walter Swets Jr. which would favor the Consistory and Classis in their decision, nevertheless, the charge of Mr. Walter Swets, Jr. regarding Mrs. Bernice Swets and a third party was not investigated, as even Classis admits."

The Classis referred the matter to the consistory of Bethany Church and at the January meeting of classis it was reported that there were no grounds to substantiate Mr. Swets' charges against Mrs. Bernice Swets.

### C. Observations

1. The real issue involved in this case is the validity of the grounds upon which Mr. Swets is censured by the consistory of Bethany Church.

2. Your Advisory Committee observes regarding the first ground for censure, namely, the sin of adultery, that this charge is not definitely established. It must be noted:

a. Although "there are several definite violations of the moral law in the life of Mr. Walter Swets Jr.," there is no sufficient evidence of adultery adduced apart from the divorce decree.

b. The evidence of the divorce decree is not conclusive for:

1. Although the decree was granted because "the Defendant had committed adultery on numerous and diverse occasions with one Jane Doe" the charge is not specific.

2. It would seem the court adopted this ground because Mr. Swets agreed not to contest the divorce and this was interpreted as acknowledgement of guilt as charged, as the consistory states in its minutes of Feb. 19, 1951, Art. 4.

Mr. Swets maintains that he consented to a "Stipulation by default" not knowing that he thereby admitted adultery. He declares that he agreed to such procedure only because of the difficult straits in which he was at the time and because he misunderstood the legal involvements. The committee of Classis Illinois investigating this case stated in their report: "Your committee is of the opinion that Mr. Swets did not understand the document when he signed it."

c. Classis Illinois in its decision of May 19, 1953, leaves room for question regarding this ground.

3. Your committee observes regarding the second ground for censure, namely, Mr. Swets by his remarriage is living in adultery,

according to the decisions of Synod (Cf. Acts of Synod 1947, Art. 120, p. 66) that it is a valid ground for censure. It must be noted:

a. Mr. Swets by his second marriage was guilty of adultery, according to Synodical decisions regarding remarriage of divorced parties. For whether Mr. Swets was the guilty party of a biblical divorce or a party of an unbiblical divorce, his remarriage constituted adultery.

b. Mr. Swets' only possible answer to this ground would be on the basis of his innocence, and Mrs. Bernice Swets being guilty of adultery prior to his second marriage. Concerning this it must be observed:

1. Mrs. Bernice Swets is not accused of adultery by either Mr. Swets or anyone else.

2. The consistory of Bethany Church upon investigation found no evidence that Mrs. Swets engaged in improper relations with a third party.

3. Mrs. Swets and the third party were married with the consent of the consistory more than two years after the remarriage of Mr. Swets.

#### D. *Recommendation*

Your committee recommends that Synod do not sustain Mr. Swets in his appeal against the consistory of Bethany Church and Classis Chicago South.

*Ground*: Mr. Swets by his remarriage committed adultery and according to the decisions of Synod is to be deprived of membership unless he repents and separates from his present wife. (Cf. Schaver, Polity of the Churches, Vol. 2, pp. 227, 231). *Adopted*.

(Report of Protests and Appeals Continued in Art. 161).

### ARTICLE 82

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Church Order*, Cf. Arts. 40, 52, Rev. A. Persenaire reporting:

#### 1. FORMULIER OM EEN HUWELIJK TE VOLTREKEN.

##### A. *Materials*:

1. Supplement No. 12 (Acts of Synod 1952, pp. 270-273).
2. Agenda Report No. 37. See Supplement No. 37.
3. Translation of the Form for the Solemnization of Marriage submitted by Classis Hamilton.

##### B. *Considerations*:

1. At the Synod of 1952 a proposed "Formulier Voor De Sluiting Van Het Huwelijk" was submitted. Also a letter containing some suggested corrections.
2. Synod decided to adopt the proposed corrected Form (Cf. Supplement No. 12, Acts of Synod 1952) and to recommend it to the Canadian Classes for temporary use. It further requested the Canadian

Classes to come with such corrections as may be desirable to the Synod of 1953. (Cf. Acts of Synod 1952, Art. 120).

3. Classis Alberta and Classis Hamilton have heeded the above-mentioned request and have submitted to this Synod the results of their labors. The proposed Form of the Classis Alberta is found in Agenda Report No. 37. See Supplement No. 37. Since the proposed Form of Classis Hamilton has not appeared on the table, we submit it herewith:

#### FORMULIER OM EEN HUWELIJK TE VOLTREKKEN

\*Waar het huwelijk plaatsvindt in het midden der gemeente (vgl. Art. 70 van de Kerkenorde) moet de voorafgaande Zondag de volgende bekendmaking zijn gedaan:

N— en N— hebben hun verlangen te kennen gegeven om in het huwelijk verbonden te worden in deze kerk op de———Komen er geen wettige bezwaren binnen, dan zal deze plechtigheid op die datum plaatsvinden.

Geliefden in de Here, wij zijn hier bijeengekomen, in de tegenwoordigheid Gods, om N— en N— door het huwelijk aan elkaar te verbinden. Nu wij geen wettige bezwaren tegen de voorgestelde verbintenis ontvingen, laat ons met eerbied elkaar voorhouden de instelling, het doel, en de verplichtingen van de huwelijke staat.

God zelf stelde de heilige huwelijksband in aan het begin van de geschiedenis. Door de mens te scheppen, naar Zijn beeld en gelijkenis, verleende Hij hem vele zegeningen en gaf Hij hem heerschappij over alles. Bovendien, zei God: "Het is niet goed, dat de mens alleen zij; Ik zal hem een hulp maken, die bij hem past." Daarop schiep God de vrouw uit de man, en bracht haar tot hem. "Daarom zal een man zijn vader en zijn moeder verlaten, en zijn vrouw aanhangen; en zij zullen tot een vlees zijn."

Onze Here Jezus eerde het huwelijk door aanwezig te zijn op de bruiloft te Kana, en Hij bevestigde het als een goddelijke instelling, als een eervolle staat, en een blijvend verbond, toen Hij verklaarde: "Hetgeen dan God samengevoegd heeft, scheidt de mens niet." De apostel Paulus tekent de verheven aard ervan, als hij het heilig huwelijk noemt een symbool van de verborgen eenheid tussen de Zaligmaker en Zijn Kerk, Zijn verlorne Bruid; en het aanbeveelt als een staat eerbaar onder allen.

Het doel van het huwelijk ligt in de voortplanting van het menselijk geslacht, de bevordering van het Koninkrijk Gods, en de verrijking van het leven van hen die trouwen. Dit doel vereist een wederzijdse liefdevolle toewijding, en een gemeenschappelijke verantwoordelijkheid bij de opvoeding van de kinderen, die de Here hun kan geven, als Zijn erfdeel en deelgenoten van Zijn verbond.

Aangaande het huiselijk leven van de getrouwen heeft de Here verordend, dat de man zou zijn het hoofd van de vrouw, zoals Christus is het Hoofd van de Kerk; en dat hij haar zou beschermen en verzorgen in liefde, een liefde, die beoefend in de geest en naar het voorbeeld van Christus, het wederzijds geluk bevordert. Ook verordende God, dat de vrouw haar man onderdanig zou zijn in alles wat is naar Zijn Woord, hem erende, zoals de Kerk Christus doet. Op deze wijze komt de vrijheid van man en vrouw beide heerlijk tot zijn recht, door een wederzijdse trouw aan het bevolene. En een huisgezin aldus begonnen in de naam des Heren

en geregeld naar Zijn geboden vormt juist het fundament van een christelijke samenleving, en geeft een voorsmaak van het ewig huis.

Het huwelijk, dan, is een goddelijke verordening, beogend te zijn een bron van geluk voor de mens, een instelling van de hoogste betekenis voor het menselijk geslacht, en een symbool van de eenheid tussen Christus en Zijn Kerk. Daarom mogen wij ook als Christenen vol vertrouwen uitzien naar Gods genade bij het dragen van onze wederzijdse verantwoordelijkheid en naar Zijn leiding en hulp bij onze gezamenlijke zorgen en beproevingen.

En nu, N— en N—, nadat gij gehoord hebt wat ons het Woord van God leert aangaande het huwelijk, stemt gij daarmee in en begeert gij deze heilige staat, zoals door God ingesteld, te aanvaarden?

Ieder antwoordt: Ja.

(Als het gewenst wordt: Wie geeft deze vrouw aan deze man? De vader of voogd antwoordt: Ik.)

\*De dienaar vraagt nu het bruidspaar elkaar de rechterhand te geven, en zegt:

Moge de Here, onze God, het verlangen en het voornemen van uw hart bevestigen, en het begin van uw huwelijk zij in de Naam des HEEREN, die hemel en aarde gemaakt heeft.

Tot de bruidegom:

N—, verklaart gij plechtig, dat gij neemt tot U en erkent als uw vrouw,

N—, hier tegenwoordig, en belooft gij dat gij door Gods genade haar zult liefhebben, eren, en onderhouden, met haar zult leven in het heilig huwelijk overeenkomstig Gods bevel, en haar nooit zult verlaten zo lang gij beiden in het leven zijt?

De bruidegom antwoordt: Ja.

Tot de bruid:

N—, verklaart gij plechtig, dat gij tot U neemt en erkent als uw man, N—, hier tegenwoordig, en belooft gij dat gij door Gods genade hem zult liefhebben, eren, en gehoorzamen in alle goede en oprechte dingen, met hem zult leven in het heilig huwelijk overeenkomstig Gods bevel, en hem nooit zult verlaten zo lang gij beiden in het leven zijt?

De bruid antwoordt: Ja.

Als het gewenst wordt, de plechtigheid van het ring-geven, het zij een enkele of twee ringen).

Tot de bruidegom:

N—, geeft gij deze ring als een symbool van uw standvastе trouw en blijvende liefde?

De bruidegom antwoordt: Ja. (Hiermede zal hij de ring aan de vierde vinger van de linkerhand van de bruid doen).

Tot de bruid:

N—, ontvangt gij (of als twee ringen gebruikt worden: geeft gij) deze ring als een symbool van uw standvastе trouw en blijvende liefde?

De bruid antwoordt: Ja. (In geval er twee ringen worden gebruikt, zal zij hiermede de ring aan de vierde vinger van de linkerhand van de man doen.)

Daarna zal de dienaar zeggen:

In overeenstemming met de wetten van de Provincie van— en de verordeningen van de Kerk van Christus, verklaar ik U, N— en N—, tot man en vrouw in de naam des Vaders en des Zoons en des Heiligen Geestes. "Hetgeen dan God samengevoegd heeft, scheidt de mens niet." Van nu afaan gaat gij gezamenlijk het levenspad langs, en moge de Vader

van alle barmhartigheid, die U door Zijn genade geroepen heeft tot deze heilige huwelijke staat, U aan elkaar verbinden in ware liefde en trouw en U Zijn zegen geven.

\*De bruidegom en de bruid knielen nu, terwijl de dienaar het navolgende gebed uitspreekt:

Barmhartige en genadige God, uit wien al het geslacht in de hemelen en op de aarde genaamd wordt, wij bidden U, zet het zegel van Uw goedkeuring op het huwelijk dat vandaag tussen onze broeder en zuster gesloten is. Schenk hun Uw Vaderlijke zegen; verleen hun Uw genade en de Heilige Geest om met reine en standvastige toegenegenheid de beloften en het tussen hen gesloten verbond na te komen. Leid hen op de weg van gerechtigheid en vrede, opdat zij, een van hart en geest in het liefhebben en dienen van U, alle de dagen van hun leven overvloedig verrijkt mogen worden door de blijken van Uw ewige gunst in Christus Jezus, onze Here. Verhef in alle levensomstandigheden Uw aangezicht over hen, opdat zij in voorspoed dankbaar en in tegenspoed geduldig zijn mogen. Laat hun wijsheid en kracht om een huiselijk leven op te bouwen, waardoor Uw Naam wordt verheerlijkt, en Uw Koninkrijk bevordert. Mogen zij vele jaren tezamen leven, en in het stervensuur van elkaar scheiden in de zalige hoop eenmaal mede aan te zitten, met alle de geheiligden, aan de bruiloft van Christus en Zijn Bruid, de Kerk. Hoor ons gebed in de Naam van onze Here Jezus Christus, die ons aldus heeft leren bidden:

Onze Vader, die in de hemelen zijt,

Uw naam worde geheiligd;

Uw Koninkrijk kome;

Uw wil geschiede gelijk in de hemel alzo ook op de aarde;

Geef ons heden ons dagelijks brood;

En vergeef ons onze schulden, gelijk ook wij vergeven onze schuldenaren;

En leid ons niet in verzoeking, maar verlos ons van de booze;

Want Uw is het Koninkrijk en de kracht en de heerlijkheid in der ewigheid. Amen.

\*Het is aanbevelingswaardig dat de plechtigheid besloten wordt met een gepast lied.

### C. *Recommendation:*

Your Committee, recognizing the merits of the three versions of the Form For The Solemnization of Marriage, that have been offered, and appreciating the time and effort spent in these labors, recommends that the Synod now adopt the "Formulier Om Een Huwelijk Te voltrekken" offered by Classis Hamilton with the following minor changes:

— In the third paragraph of the Form proper the words "duurzame band" be substituted for "blijvend verbond." This is in harmony with the English version.

— To change the words (stated by the minister after the couple have joined hands) "Moge de Here, onze God . . . bevestigen" to read, "de Here, onze God, bevestig . . ."

### *Grounds:*

1. This translation follows the original English Form more closely.



2. The phraseology of this translation is in more up-to-date Dutch.  
*Adopted.*

D. Synod directs the Publication Committee to publish this "Formulier" in booklet form. *Adopted.*

## II. FORM FOR THE ERASURE OF MEMBERS BY BAPTISM:

A. *Material.* Agenda Report No. 4. See Supplement No. 4.

### B. *History:*

The Synod of 1946 appointed a Committee to study the feasibility of having a special Form for the exclusion of baptized members from the church. This committee reported to the Synod of 1948. That body adopted its recommendations that there should be a Special Form and instructed the committee to draft one. It further endorsed the proposal of this same committee that the present disciplinary procedure for delinquent members should be reviewed, and asked it to suggest a new mode of procedure.

A proposed form, as well as rule for procedure, were submitted to the Synod of 1950. This body, however, did not accept the proposed form, nor did it discuss the committee's proposed change of procedure. Instead it gave the committee a new mandate, namely, "to rewrite (the form) keeping in mind the following matters:

1. 'Synod believes the covenant doctrine should be simply enunciated.
2. 'The distinction between erasure and excommunication should be clearly marked.
3. 'The form to be read should be clear and brief.
4. 'The matter should be offered to the church at large for discussion. (Acts of Synod, 1950, p. 40)'.

### C. *Evaluation:*

Your Advisory Committee believes that the Study Committee should be commended for its laudable efforts to compose a form which would do justice to a matter of such great moment. Its report shows that it has made a real study of the principles involved in this matter.

Your Advisory Committee, however, is of the opinion that the Study Committee has not fully carried out the mandate given unto it by the Synod of 1950. Although the revised form which it now offers is more brief and does enunciate the covenant doctrine more simply than its previously proposed draft, it does not do justice to the second point in the mandate of Synod, namely, "the committee in rewriting the form should keep in mind that the distinction between erasure and excommunication should be clearly marked." This second point of its mandate the committee has not carried out, at least not in the sense wherein it was intended by Synod. On the contrary, the Study Committee has virtually wiped out the distinction between the erasure of baptized members and the excommunication of communicant members. It even characterizes

the exclusion of baptized members as being "excommunication" without any qualification.

D. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod gratefully acknowledge the work done by its Study Committee. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod reject Recommendation "B" of the Study Committee, concerning the distinction between erasure and excommunication.

*Grounds:*

a. The Committee has not presented adequate reasons for the cessation of the use of the traditional term "erasure."

b. While the exclusion of baptized members is excommunication in a sense, there is a distinction between this and the exclusion of communicant members, which ought to be reflected in the official terminology.

Since this advice is contrary to that of the Study Committee, the recommendation of the Study Committee on this point takes precedence. Its recommendation is read. Dr. E. Y. Monsma, one of the members of the Study Committee, receives opportunity to defend its recommendation.

The advice of the advisory committee of Synod is adopted.

3. That since the wording of the proposed form for the exclusion of baptized members is based on what is found in point B of the Study Committee's report, Synod declare that the present form is also unacceptable. *Adopted.*

4. Synod turns to point "C" in the Study Committee's report, reading as follows:

The procedure in the discipline and excommunication of baptized members shall consist of three announcements to the congregation. The first announcement shall be made to the congregation without mentioning the name of the erring member. The second announcement shall mention the name after the advice of classis has been obtained. The third announcement shall be a notification to the congregation that until the present moment all arduous and patient labors spent upon the erring member of our church seem futile, and that in case said member shows no signs of repentance his excommunication will take place at the designated time. Each announcement is to be accompanied with an urgent exhortation to the congregation to pray fervently for the erring member.

*Reasons for Adopting the New Procedure*

1. In bringing the disciplinary procedure for non-confessing members more in line with that for confessing members, the proposed change stresses the seriousness of all discipline and excommunications.

2. The procedure now in vogue does not allow sufficient time for "lay" discipline and admonition. The proposed procedure gives

friends and fellow members adequate opportunity to share in the church's admonitions, and may in God's grace be instrumental in the conversion of a sinner.

3. The distinction between the excommunication of a non-confessing member and of a confessing member is not so great that it calls for two quite dissimilar methods of procedure. *Action is deferred.*

5. That the whole matter be referred once more to a committee. See Art. 164. *Adopted.*

### III. WHETHER ARTICLE 70 SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM OR RETAINED IN THE CHURCH ORDER.

A. *Material.* Agenda Report No. 16. See Supplement No. 16.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod gratefully acknowledge the work done by its Study Committee. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod adopt the recommendations of this Committee which we herewith incorporate in our recommendations:

2a. That this entire matter now be placed in the hands of the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation.

*Grounds:*

1. Since the appointment of the above mentioned Committee the matter under consideration has properly become a part of its task.

2. This is also in harmony with the advice given by our sister Church in South Africa. *Adopted.*

b. Relative to the change or amendment of Article 68 of the General Rules of 1881 re the ecclesiastical confirmation of marriage as requested by Classis Hackensack and Classis Hudson (see Overtures 19 and 25, Acts of Synod 1951, pp. 455, 458):

That this matter be held in abeyance until final action is taken with regard to Art. 70 of the Church Order.

*Grounds:*

1. The proposed revision of Art. 70 if adopted would mean that the rule in question would be obsolete.

2. The matter can safely wait since the danger pointed up by the two overtures are covered and counteracted by the 1944 decision anent the evil of mixed marriages. *Adopted.*

3. That the above mentioned overtures be referred to the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation. See Art. 164 for Committee. *Adopted.*

### IV. CHURCH HELP COMMITTEE INCORPORATED.

A. *Material.* Agenda Report No. 23. See Supplement No. 23.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. We recommend that Synod approve of the Church Help Committee's action in heeding the request and the authorization of the Synodical Committee to make a special appeal to all our churches for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund. See Supplement No. 47.

*Grounds:*

a. Due to an oversight the Synod of 1952 made no provision for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund.

b. Classis Ontario had appealed to the Synodical Committee to reactivate the Canadian Emergency Building Fund. See Supplement No. 47. *Adopted.*

2. We call Synod's attention to the change of policy indicated in paragraph 4 of the report of the Church Help Committee, namely, that it "decided to honor their (the Canadian Churches') requests as much as possible by loaning 50% of the Canadian Emergency Building Fund and 50% from the Church Help Fund with their respective stipulations." This solution was thankfully received by the Canadian churches. In order that no injustice be done the committee decided "to continue this policy in the future."

We recommend, however, that Synod declare that the Church Help Committee is not to continue this policy in the future, except in emergency cases.

*Ground:* Your committee believes this policy, if continued, may detract from the aid which the Church Help Fund could furnish to the churches in the U. S. *Adopted.*

3. Further, we recommend that Synod instruct the Church Help Committee to reconsider the policy adopted by the Synod of 1949 whereby the Canadian churches receiving aid from the Canadian Emergency Building Fund are granted a 25% cancellation of the money loaned and in regard to repayments a period of grace of 5 years (Cf. Acts of Synod 1949, Art. 78, IV, B.), and to advise the Synod of 1954 what its future policy is to be. *Adopted.*

4. We recommend that Synod grant the repeated request of the Church Help Committee that the term of office of its treasurer, Mr. Charles R. Mulder, be again extended for two years. See Art. 164.

*Adopted.*

5. We call the attention of Synod to the fact that the term of Rev. J. Cupido has expired. Further, we recommend that the nomination of his successor be referred to the Committee on Appointments. See Art. 164.

*Adopted.*

V. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL AID FROM SISTER-CHURCH.

A. *Material:* Overture 53.

B. Your Advisory Committee recommends not to adopt this overture.

*Grounds:*

1. The regulations of the government of the Netherlands do not permit the "Gereformeerde Kerken" to send money to our churches in Canada.

2. In view of the financial circumstances of the churches in the Netherlands, especially after the recent flood disaster, we do not deem it advisable to ask them for contributions. *Adopted.*

## VI. CHURCH ORDER REVISION COMMITTEE

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 27. See Supplement No. 27.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod thank the Committee for the work it has done.

*Adopted.*

2. That Synod adopt the suggestions offered by the Committee which read as follows: "(1) That while the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands proceed with drafting and adopting their own revision, our committee shall keep in touch with their committee, informing them of our reactions to various proposed changes and additions, in so far as the committee in the Netherlands requests such consultation. (2) That our committee shall in due season advise one of our future Synods as to possible and advisable revisions in our Christian Reformed Church Order, profiting by the findings and decisions of the Churches in the Netherlands." *Adopted.*

## VII. THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION.

A. *Materials:*

Agenda Reports No. 32, 32-A. See Supplements No. 32, 32-A.

B. *Recommendations:*1. *Personnel and Organization*

a. That Synod take note of the fact that the name of Mr. Fred L. Winter, Treasurer of the Board, was not included as a member of the Committee as mentioned in the 1952 Acts of Synod, Article 190, VI, A, 18.

b. That Synod gratefully acknowledge the many faithful services of the Rev. J. O. Bouwsma, who served the Fund so long and so well as Secretary of the Board since the beginning of our Plan in 1940. That it also acknowledge the sound advice and competent leadership of the Rev. B. Van Someren, who served as Vice-President for six years. Both these brethren retired from the Board last year.

c. That Synod refer to the Committee on Appointments the fact that the terms of the members, Mr. N. Hendrikse, and Mr. F. L. Winter, and of the alternate, Mr. G. Dornbos, expire at this time. See Art. 164.

(Note: We call to Synod's attention that the Board has not presented a nomination to Synod as required by the Acts of 1952, Article 190, V. C.) *Adopted.*

## 2. *Information on Pensioners:*

a. That Synod approve the honorable emeritation of the following ministers: the Rev. R. Bronkema by Classis Orange City on the grounds of ill health and inability to perform his work; the Rev. J. D. Pikaart by Classis Minnesota on the grounds of age, years of service and illness of wife; the Rev. J. G. Vande Lune by Classis Sioux Center on the grounds of forty years of service in the Gospel Ministry and age; the Rev. J. L. Schaver by Classis Chicago North on ground of ill health, Rev. Z. Sherda by Classis Grand Rapids South, because of years of service, age and physical condition, to become effective September, 1953; Rev. A. Jabaay, by Classis Chicago North for reasons of health, effective October 1, 1952, Rev. J. Cupido by Classis Orange City, for reasons of health, effective April 1, 1953, Rev. A. H. Bratt, by Classis Hudson, because of forty years of service and advanced age.

*Adopted.*

b. That Synod receive for information that the following pensioners have died: Rev. S. Struyk, Rev. G. Vande Riet, Mrs. B. Nagel, Mrs. Jennie Dekker, and Dr. S. Volbeda. Dr. Volbeda leaves his widow as pensioner. Rev. and Mrs. M. Huizenga died on February 20 and 21 respectively leaving their one orphan daughter, Rosalie, age 10. Rosalie Huizenga is now receiving the orphan's pension. Rev. P. Jonker passed away September 29, 1952. His widow became a pensioner.

c. Classis Grand Rapids East, at its meeting January 15, 1953, declared Rev. L. Oostendorp eligible for a call.

d. The number of pensioners, as of February 1, 1953, was 43 ministers and 83 widows. *Received as information.*

3. Your Committee advises Synod to concur in the recommendation presented by the Board under Part VI, 3, which reads as follows:

"The Board recommends that Synod grant dependency allowance for children physically or mentally incapacitated on or before their 19th birthday, by augmenting the pension of a widow at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child beyond its 19th birthday. The amendment would read as follows: 'unless physically or mentally incapacitated and so certified by two competent physicians appointed by the Board of Trustees, in which case their pension shall be continued.' Art. 92, III, B, 4, f, on page 37 of the 1952 Acts of Synod would then read: 'The pension of a widow with a dependent child or dependent children shall be augmented at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child until the dependent has reached the 19th birthday, unless said child be physically or mentally incapacitated and so certified by two competent physicians appointed by the Board of Trustees, in which case their pension shall be continued. However, the pension to such a widow shall not exceed 50% of the average salary of our ministers in active service.'

Upon inquiry the Board has been apprised of four children of widow pensioners who would be covered by this amendment, should Synod approve our recommendation.

It is recommended that this amendment be made retroactive to January 1, 1953, at which time pension for children under 19 years of age was augmented. (Church Order Matters Continued in Art. 104).

*Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 83

Rev. L. Van Laar presents Dr. Charles Vincze, fraternal delegate to the Free Magyar Reformed Church. The speaker emphasizes that our two churches are entrusted with a special talent of Reformed Christianity. We are exposed to the danger of being polite at the expense of truth. Sects all around us are making phenomenal gains. We have difficulty in finding our place in interdenominational movements. We must not compromise. Dr. G. Goris, responding, commends the speaker's warm orthodoxy, and his oneness with us in his uncompromising battle for the truth. He assures him of our continued interest and prayers.

#### ARTICLE 84

Synod considers the report of the Advisory Committee on *Varia*, Rev. B. J. Haan reporting:

##### I. AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY AND THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION

###### A. *Materials:*

1. Agenda Report No. 1. See Supplement No. 1.
2. Overtures: No. 12, No. 13, No. 30, No. 64.

###### B. *Considerations:*

1. American Bible Society requests increased moral and financial support.

2. Overtures 12, 13, and 30 desire an expression from Synod respecting the acceptableness of the Revised Standard Version.

3. Overture 64 requests Synod, "to investigate carefully the policy of the American Bible Society re the Revised Standard Version of the Bible."

###### C. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod recommend the American Bible Society to all our churches in the U.S.A. for continued moral and financial support for 1954.

###### *Grounds:*

a. The tremendous and distinctive service given by this organization for the distribution and spread of God's Word, e.g. "supply the missionaries with the Word of God in languages of all the nations of the earth," warrants our continued support.

b. Present information concerning the work of the American Bible Society respecting the spread of the various translations reveals that, "the constitution of the Bible Society allows at present to print only the following versions: the King James Version of 1611, the Revised version of 1885, the American Standard Revised Version of 1901, and the New Testament of the Revised Standard Version issued in 1946. Not any of these New Testaments of 1946 have been published by the American Bible Society, but at the request of some missionaries, the Gospels and the book of Acts have been published in the small, three cent, paper covered edition for distribution among the illiterate people in some southern States. No Bibles of the Revised Standard Version can be printed by the American Bible Society. No New Testaments have been printed because of copyright restrictions". See *Agenda Report 1*, p. 5.

In the light of the good done by the American Bible Society for missions in general and for our own missions, mainly through distribution of acceptable versions, present involvements of the American Bible Society with the Revised Standard Version, irrespective of possible serious objections to this version, would not warrant discontinuance of support. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod appoint a committee to study the R.S.V., in response to the several overtures, with a view to determine the attitude of our church toward the R.S.V. and to advise the church, in the light of its conclusions, what her policy should be toward the American Bible Society or any other organization involved in the distribution of the R.S.V. This committee is to report to the Synod of 1954.

*Grounds:*

a. Prominent orthodox scholars have raised serious objections to the R.S.V., e.g., Dr. Oswald T. Allis.

b. Considerable unrest is found among our people resulting from the uncertainties surrounding this new translation.

c. Only a proper study and a clear statement of the church can remove the apprehension and bring about a fair attitude toward those organizations involved in the distribution of the R.S.V. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod advise our churches, in the interim, to request that all funds sent by them to the American Bible Society be used only for the distribution of the King James version, the Revised Version and the American Standard Revised Version.

*Ground:* This is in accordance with the established policy of the American Bible Society to use monies as designated by donors.

*Adopted.*

4. That Synod consider the above recommendations as answering the overtures pertaining to this matter from Classis Hamilton, Muske-



gon, Sioux Center, and Holland. See Art. 164 for Committee to study.  
*Adopted.*

## II. BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 9. See Supplement No. 9.

B. *Recommendation*: To recommend the British and Foreign Bible Society to the Canadian churches for continued moral and financial support for 1954.

*Ground*: The work of this organization merits continued support. (See Art. 164 for Representative). *Adopted.*

## III. KOREAN MATERIAL RELIEF

A. *Materials* Agenda Report No. 18. See Supplement No. 18.

B. *Specific requests*:

A. That our Grand Rapids Deacons' Conference, with its Board, be designated as the organization responsible for Korean Material Relief.

*Grounds*:

1. Our Korean brethren, together with Rev. Sutton, have strongly recommended that all monies and goods be handled by one central organization in the United States. They have discouraged sending funds through various different channels. Our conference would then be the central channel for distribution and would be in position for audits, reviews, etc.

2. The Korean Spiritual Relief Committee, appointed by Synod, has advised this action. They are not ready to assume the work of material relief at this time.

3. Our conference, due to its two years in this work, has some knowledge of the personnel, organization, problems connected with the work.

B. That Korean Material Relief be placed on the list of accredited causes recommended to diaconates for support.

*Grounds*:

1. There is no doubt but that the need will continue for the coming year. These suffering brethren in Christ continue to cry for help. Their cry calls for united action in Christian mercy.

2. Such specific recognition would identify our organization and its work. There has been no end of confusion among donors and church treasurers between our work and that of the Korean Spiritual Relief. Such identification would clarify the situation.

3. This work should be of broader scope than a local conference. This presents an opportunity for denominational cooperation, and general compassion and mercy beyond any local bounds.

4. At present we have no proper way of approaching the deacons of our churches for help in the financing of drives, seeking funds for medicines, hospital supplies, etc. Through ignorance the Conference made a request of all consistories in 1951, and the response was excellent. But we did overstep our bounds at that time of emergency. If we would be placed on the list of accredited causes we could appeal to all our churches for assistance in time of need."

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod grant the requests of the committee for Korean Material Relief together with the grounds. *Adopted.*

IV. KOREAN REFORMED SPIRITUAL RELIEF

A. *Materials:* Agenda Report No. 19. See Supplement No. 19.

B. *Recommendation:*

1. That the work be continued. *Adopted.*
2. That, as in previous years, the Korean Reformed Spiritual Relief Committee be recommended to the churches for one or more offerings.
3. That the Committee be granted permission to allocate \$2000.00 from the funds on hand for the publication of a commentary on the New Testament by Rev. Yune Sun Park of the Korean Theological Seminary. (Rev. Park is a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, mastered the Dutch language in order to make use of Dutch commentaries and is highly spoken of by all, and is warmly recommended by Dr. C. Van Til.) (See Art. 164 for Committee). *Adopted.*

V. CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 34, 34-A.

B. *Recommendation:*

1. That the present Committee as constituted be continued another year and that another ministerial member be appointed as Chairman in the place of the Rev. Christian Huissen, now serving in Rock Valley, Iowa.
2. That the Committee be authorized to activate the program of sponsor-procurement, if and when the Pending Bill(s) is (are) enacted law, in accordance with the provisions and regulations of the law. (See Art. 164 for Committee). *Adopted.*

VI. UNITED YOUTH COMMITTEE

A. *Material:* Agenda Report No. 38. See Supplement No. 38.

B. *Recommendation:* That Synod acknowledge this report and commend the committee for its work. (See Art. 164 for Committee).

*Adopted.*

## VII. THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 39. See Supplement No. 39.

B. *Recommendation*: That Synod recommend the Lord's Day Alliance for moral and financial support for 1954. (See Art. 164 for Representative). *Adopted*.

## VIII. PROFANITY IN ARMED FORCES.

A. *Material*: Overture No. 58.

B. *Recommendation*: That Synod adopt this overture together with the grounds.

*Grounds*:

1. In accordance with the duty of the church toward the moral conditions of our country, past Synods have repeatedly made such expressions.

2. Recent religious utterances from the White House encourage the Church of Christ to make her witness more pronounced in our nation. *Adopted*.

## IX. LETTER OF COMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A. *Material*: Overture No. 65.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That the overture be amended by the following additional statement "and assures him of the prayers of our people for the indispensable guidance of God's Holy Spirit, through Christ, His Eternal Son, Our Lord."

*Ground*: This gives more specific expression of our distinctive Christian witness. *Adopted*.

2. That Synod adopt the overture as amended.

*Ground*: The religious emphasis of our President stimulates the Church of Christ to express such commendation. *Adopted*.  
(Varia Matters Continued in Art. 97.)

## ARTICLE 85

The Stated Clerk reads the reports of Rev. B. H. Spalink, fraternal delegate to the Assembly of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and of Dr. Orin Holtrop, fraternal delegate to the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, June, 1953. *Received as information*. (See Supplement No. 47).

## ARTICLE 86

Synod adjourns and Elder G. Kamp leads in thanksgiving to God.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 17****Eleventh Session**

## ARTICLE 87

After the singing of Psalter Hymnal of 391: 1, 3, 5, Rev. I. Meuzelaar leads in prayer.

## ARTICLE 88

Roll Call is held. Elder A. Ten Harmsel was called to Chicago due to the illness of his brother, who met with an accident.

## ARTICLE 89

The minutes of the Tuesday sessions are read and approved.

## ARTICLE 90

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Educational Matters II*, cf. Art. 14, 25, Rev. L. Veltkamp reporting.

## I. CALVIN COLLEGE MATTERS

A. *Materials:*

1. Agenda Reports No. 12 and 12-A. See Supplements 12, 12-A.

B. *Appointments*1. *Administrative*

Your committee recommends Synod's approval on the following administrative appointments.

a. Dr. William Spoelhof as President for a four year term.

b. Mr. Gordon Buter as Business Manager for a four year term.

c. Miss Catherine Van Opynen as Dean of Women for a four year term.

d. Mr. Sydney Youngsma as Financial Director for a two year term.

*Approved.*

2. *Faculty*

Your committee recommends Synod's approval on the following faculty appointments.

a. Dr. Cornelius Jaarsma for indefinite tenure as Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in secondary schools.

b. Dr. John Daling for indefinite tenure as Professor in Psychology.

c. Dr. John Timmerman for indefinite tenure as Professor in English.

d. Dr. Evan Runner for a two-year term as Associate Professor in Philosophy.

e. James De Jonge for indefinite tenure as Associate Professor in Music.

f. Henry Bengelink for indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in Biology.

g. Miss Gertrude Slingerland for indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in English.

h. Melvin Berghuis for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Speech.

i. John Vanden Berg for a two years term as Assistant Professor in Economics.

j. Henry Ippel for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Political Science and History.

k. Lester De Koster for a two year term as Assistant Professor of Speech and as Library Director.

l. Miss Helen Van Laar for a two year term as Instructor in Education.

m. Miss Shirley Balk for a two year term as Instructor in Music.

n. Miss Ann Jenssen for a two year term as Instructor in English and Speech.

o. Mr. David Tuuk for a two year term as Assistant Coach.

p. Mr. Barney Steen for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Physical Education (this was already approved last year subject to an interview). See Acts 1952.

q. Dr. John Van Bruggen for a two year term as Associate Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in primary schools.

r. Mr. Henry De Wit for a two years term in the department of Economics and Sociology.

s. Mr. Robert Otten for a two year term as Instructor in Latin.

t. Mr. Steve Vander Weele for a temporary engagement in the English Department to serve during the absence of Dr. H. Zylstra.

*Approved.*

### C. *Miscellaneous Items of Interest*

1. Your committee requests Synod to take cognizance of the following matters.

a. The acute need of qualified personnel to fill several staff vacancies at Calvin, viz. Music, Physical Education (women). Likewise the need for staff expansion in the Sociology, Economics, and Psychology Departments.

b. The introduction this year of a Conference of Sacred Music as a service to organists, choir directors, ministers, and other interested persons in our denomination for promoting musical appreciation in our congregations.

c. The Denominational Reference Service which has been established as a helpful aid to our churches.

d. The institution of a Health Service Plan at Calvin which provides for a full time nurse, supervision of the physical welfare of the students, first aid, etc.

e. A revamped scholarship program which arranges for a \$250.00 stipend to be awarded to all winners of scholarships available to high school graduates.

f. The Alumni Plan for acquisition of properties between our two campuses over a long period of time, in order to eventually join the two properties. *Received as information.*

g. A correction of an error that appeared in the Acts of Synod, 1950, pg. 259, concerning salary regulations re instructors at Calvin. The printed figure of \$3500.00 should read \$3700.00. Synod is asked to make the necessary correction in its records. *Adopted.*

h. The policy permitting the use of Calvin's Mailing List to Synodically approved causes and Christian Education projects provided consistory approval has been obtained. This service is likewise available to any church for use among its own constituency. *Received as information.*

2. *Recommendations.*

a. Your committee recommends that Synod approve the Board's overture with grounds, "That Synod appoint a committee on Sponsorship of Foreign Students at Calvin College and Seminary, preferably a small committee, and within easy communication with each other and the school." (Agenda Supp. Report 12-A, Pg. 8). *Approved.*

b. Your committee recommends that Synod approve the Board's action endorsing the plan of the Calvin Foundation to bring Dr. J. Waterink of the Free University to Calvin College and Seminary for a series of lectures, seminars, and teaching courses sometime in 1954. *Approved.*

c. Your committee recommends that Synod take note of the declination of the appointment of Rev. A. Brink as Educational Secretary and acknowledge with appreciation his many services for our school during his term of office. *Adopted.*

d. Your committee recommends that Synod grant honorable recognition to the following professors who have completed 25 or more years of teaching service at our college:

Dr. H. H. Meeter.....	25 years in May, 1951
Prof. S. Swets.....	30 years in February, 1953
Dr. H. Van Zyl.....	30 years in May, 1953
Dr. P. Hoekstra.....	35 years in May, 1953; also secretary of the faculty for 23 years.
Dr. H. Ryskamp.....	35 years in May, 1953
Dr. R. Stob.....	35 years in May, 1952
Prof. H. Van Aniel.....	38 years in May, 1953
Prof. J. Van Haitsma.....	44 years in May, 1953

Special attention is drawn to Dr. H. Van Zyl and Prof. H. Van Aniel who are retiring this month after 30 and 38 years of service, respectively.

e. Your committee recommends Synod's approval of the Board's action re its revised regulation covering grants to faculty members for summer study. This regulation provides a \$75.00 allowance to any

faculty member of rank of Instructor or above who attends a summer session at a graduate or professional school. *Approved.*

f. Your committee recommends that Synod accede to the request of the Board "that Synod express its deep appreciation of the liberal response to the Calvin Campaign." *Adopted.*

g. Your committee recommends that Synod endorse the Board's expression "favoring additional efforts to reach our desired goal through such methods as would be appropriate to the churches which have not attained their anticipated amounts and that the Financial Secretary shall, with the advice of the Curator, contact these churches and in consultation with minister and consistory devise further plans."

*Adopted.*

h. Your committee recommends Synod's approval of the following nominations of alternates for the Board of Trustees, presented by the Board:

alternate for Mr. B. Staal: Mr. John Veltkamp, Holland, Michigan, and Mr. Fred L. Winter, Muskegon, Michigan,

alternate for Mr. J. De Nooyer: Mr. Ernest Feenstra, Westwood, Kalamazoo, Michigan and Mr. R. Stapert, Kalamazoo,

alternates for Mr. G. Andreas: Mr. Hemmo Schreuder, Denver, Colorado and Mr. John Brouwer, Pella, Iowa,

alternate for H. J. Fles: Mr. Arnold Hulst, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Mr. Ben Smit, Hudsonville.

This is referred to the Committee on Appointments. (See Art. 164).

i. The Board also requests that Synod designate the alternates for the various *primi* members chosen last year. We recommend that Synod designate the *secundus* listed below each *primus* as his alternate. (See Art. 164). *Adopted.*

## II. SEMINARY MATTERS

### A. *Materials*

Agenda Report No. 12 and 12-A. See Supplements 12, 12-A.

### B. *Items of interest*

1. Synod's attention is drawn to the change in nomenclature of the first degree offered by our Seminary from the Th.B. to the B.D. degree. This move is in keeping with the recommendation of the American Association of Theological Schools.

2. Attention is drawn also to the exploratory work that is being done with a view to the matter of granting the Th.D. degree. A fairly large committee representing the Board, Seminary Faculty, and College Faculty has been appointed to study the matter.

### C. *Rules re Presidency of Calvin Seminary.*

Your committee recommends Synod's adoption of this body of rules for the Seminary Presidency with the following modifications:

1. Point 4 under the heading "Relation of president to Faculty" we would add the statement, "In the event that the majority of the faculty should be at variance with the president on a recommendation, the president shall present the disagreement to the Board or the Executive Committee."

2. Point 1 under the heading "Relation of President to the Student Body" we propose the deletion of the last few words, "and not the faculty."

3. Point 3 under the heading "Relation of the President to the Student Body", we would transpose that sentence to read as follows: "It shall be the duty of the president to supervise organizations. In the event of difference of opinion on matters of consequence, the president has final authority, except for the right of an organization to appeal to the Board."

4. Point 1 under heading, "Relation of President to the Board-Executive Committee", we propose deletion of the words "be expected to".

5. Point 1 under heading "Relation of President to the Church", we propose the deletion of the last phrase, "and shall have the privilege of the floor on all matters pertaining to the seminary."

A motion is made to adopt these Rules as amended. Dr. J. H. Kromminga, Prof. R. B. Kuiper, Dr. H. Stob, and Rev. J. T. Holwerda, secretary of the Board, express their views on these rules. The motion is tabled. A new motion to adopt these rules tentatively and to refer them to the Board in consultation with the Seminary Faculty, for a report next year is carried. (Report of Committee on Educational Matters II Continued in Art. 135).

#### ARTICLE 91

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Educational Matters I*, Cf. Art. 94, 124, Dr. G. Heyns, reporting:

##### I. PROTEST OF THE REV. HARRY R. BOER

A. *Material*: A protest of the Rev. Harry R. Boer against the action of the 1952 Synod concerning the termination of his tenure as professor.

##### B. *Summary of Content*

The Rev. Harry R. Boer asserts that the Synod of 1952 deposed him from office, and did so without giving grounds for its action. He contends that this action was unwarranted and unjust. Furthermore, he claims that Synod was inconsistent in that, while it deposed him from the office of professor, it allowed him to remain a minister of the Gospel in good and regular standing.

After stating his view of the action he gives a summarized history of the Seminary situation insofar as he was involved in it personally. In this review he refers to various documents that contain factual material



setting forth aspects of the situation which engaged the attention of the Synod of 1952.

The body of Rev. Boer's document also contains a section in which he voices his strong objection to the public utterances of the editor of *The Banner* concerning the situation in our Seminary.

In the conclusion of the document he first declares that he withdraws the letter which he had sent to Synod immediately after he had been informed of his dismissal. This letter is incorporated in the opening paragraphs of his protest. He then declares that his further purpose with his communication to Synod is as follows:

"To protest the action concerned since, as is apparent from the above, the whole so-called Seminary situation was essentially a moral situation. I protest the action of the 1952 Synod because that action did not arise out of a facing and adjudication of the grave moral issues that existed. Furthermore, I protest this action because it violated due process of law by effecting deposition without grounds."

*C. Recommendations:*

1. Your Committee recommends that Synod declare the section dealing with "the illegal petition and Banner editorials" irrelevant.

*Grounds:*

a. The petitions were declared out of order by Synod (Acts, 1952, Art. 158, p. 96, 97).

b. The editorials were written subsequent to the Synod of 1952, and do not constitute a part of the action of Synod.

2. Your Committee advises Synod not to sustain the protest.

*Grounds:*

a. The basic contention of the Rev. Harry Boer that he was deposed is not true to fact. It is his interpretation of the action. His services as professor were indeed terminated, but he retained his office as minister of the Gospel after the decision of Synod had been taken. The action of Synod may be compared to the severance of the tie between a pastor and his congregation, which sometimes occurs when an untenable situation has arisen, without involving deposition of the minister.

b. While formally there is no ground adduced for the dismissal, the decision of Synod is not in fact ungrounded. The decision was reached by ballot, after the whole matter had been considered for more than two days (Acts, 1952, p. 94-102), and had been studied by the Advisory Committee for some 80 hours (p. 121). It was taken upon the basis of the deplorable and untenable situation which existed in the Seminary, for which the Rev. Boer was also held in a measure responsible. The entire situation had received "full and free discussion" so that "every aspect of the Seminary situation" (p. 115) had been considered. The factors that influenced Synod's decision in each individual case were no doubt varied. They were not exactly the same

for each person concerned in Synod's decision: Nevertheless, Synod's painful and drastic action finds its ground in the deplorable situation that existed in our Seminary. *Adopted.*

II. OVERTURE OF THE NEERLANDIA CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH CONCERNING "DECISION OF 1952 SYNOD RE SEMINARY SITUATION."

A. *Material*: Overture No. 32.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That it is true that, in general, information to the churches concerning Synodical decisions should be given with sufficient clarity and detail that confusion may be avoided;

2. that, however, the Neerlandia Consistory must be aware that not all matters pertaining to decisions reached in executive sessions can properly be published. *Adopted.*

III. PROTEST OF THE REV. A. A. KONING

A. *Materials*. The protest of the Rev. Koning against the action of the 1952 Synod by which it declared out of order certain petitions anent the College and Seminary. (Acts 1952, Art. 158, B, 1 and 2, pp. 96 and 97).

B. *Summary of Content*.

The Rev. Koning takes exception to Synod's action with regard to these petitions on the grounds, (1) that Synod did not "make the slightest attempt to show its position in accord with Scripture, nor give any grounds for its surprising action" and (2) that this decision "was a stunning blow to those who tried to express themselves, according to their inalienable right, by way of the office of believer."

C. *Recommendation*:

That Synod do not sustain the protest of the Rev. A. A. Koning.

*Ground*:

The 1952 Synod did not deny the individual Christian his liberty to express himself to Synod on matters that concern the Church. Synod declared that the circulation of petitions for mass signature is contrary to good order in the Church. (Report of Advisory Committee on Educational Matters I Continued in Art. 94). *Adopted.*

ARTICLE 92

Synod adjourns and Rev. R. Wezeman leads in prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 17  
Twelfth Session

ARTICLE 93

After No. 279 has been sung Elder G. Trap voices the prayer of Synod to God. In this session the Vice President presides.

## ARTICLE 94

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Educational Matters I*, cf. Art. 91, Dr. G. Heyns reporting:

I. REGARDING METHOD OF APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF SEMINARY PROFESSORS.

A. *Materials*:

1. Report of the Committee of the Board of Trustees on Method of Appointment and Tenure of Office. See Supplement 12-A, Appendix C.
2. Overture No. 18 (Classis Pacific).

B. *Background*.

Synod of 1952 approved of the action of the Board of Trustees "to appoint a committee to make a thorough study of the whole method of appointment and tenure of office of the Seminary professors, which committee will report to the Board next February." (Acts 1952, p. 119).

The 1952 Synod also referred to this Committee of the Board various overtures dealing with the appointment of professors to the Seminary (Overtures 10, 30, and 35, Acts 1952, Art. 193, p. 119).

The Report of this Committee of the Board is contained in Agenda Report No. 12-A, Appendix C, and constitutes part of the material presented for the consideration of your Advisory Committee. (See Supplement 12-A, Appendix C.)

C. *Recommendations*.

1. Your Committee recommends that Synod adopt the following set of rules to govern the Board of Trustees in the appointment of members for the instructional staff of the Seminary:

a. Requirements for Instructional Staff.

1. **Personal**

a. He must be sound in doctrine and zealous for the system of truth known as the Reformed faith.

b. He must be diligent in the vindication of the Reformed Faith against all heresy and error (Cf. Article 18 of the Church Order).

c. He must be of sound judgment, and must be well balanced, free from fanaticism.

d. He must be truly godly and must excel in the basic Christian virtues of honesty and humility.

e. He must possess pedagogical competence on the seminary level.

2. **Academic**

a. He must be truly learned in the sense that he has received a broad liberal arts education as well as a thorough Reformed theological training.

b. He must have special training in the field for which he is nominated.

c. He must have given evidence of being a scholar, having the ability to express himself with accuracy and to engage in original research.

d. He must have a thorough acquaintance with contemporaneous theological thought, both Reformed and otherwise.

### 3. Ministerial

a. He should ordinarily be an ordained man who has had pastoral experience.

#### b. Rank and Tenure

##### 1. Professor

a. He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

b. He must have established a reputation as a competent teacher of theology.

c. He shall be given indefinite tenure.

d. If he has not previously been installed as professor of theology, he shall be so installed as soon as he undertakes his work.

##### 2. Associate Professor

a. He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

b. He shall be appointed initially for a term of 2 years. Reappointment shall be for a term of 4 years.

c. He shall, after having served acceptably for six years in our seminary, be eligible for the rank of professor with indefinite tenure. This period may be reduced to four years in exceptional cases. Recommendations to the rank of professor are made by the Board of Trustees to Synod.

d. He shall be installed as a theological professor as soon as he undertakes his work.

##### 3. Instructor

a. He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

b. He is to receive an interim appointment for one year with the possibility of having the appointment renewed.

c. He shall attend faculty meetings and may participate in discussions but shall not be entitled to vote.

##### 4. Lecturer

a. He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

b. He is to be appointed for a limited time under special arrangements and has no faculty status.

Synod may, either with or without the advice of the Board of Trustees, remove a teacher of whatever rank when it has become convinced that such removal is necessary for the best interest of the seminary. Before such removal is effected, however, the teacher in question shall have the right to defend his conduct of his office. Preliminary to and pending such investigation, a teacher may temporarily be suspended by action of the Board of Trustees.

##### c. Procedure for Making Appointments

1. The need for additional teaching help or eventual replacements shall be reviewed annually by the Seminary President and the Board of Trustees at its May meeting.

2. When the need for an appointment has been established, this need shall be referred to a standing committee on appointments. This committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, shall consist of three of its members, the President of the Seminary, and another member of the Seminary faculty. The chairmen of the committee shall be designated by the Board of Trustees.

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep informed about and to collect complete data on prospective candidates for teaching positions in

the seminary. Recommendations may be made to this committee at any time by members of the Board of Trustees, consistories, Classes, and the seminary faculty. The data collected by the committee shall include information on the candidate's ability to meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

3. The Standing Committee on Appointments shall report at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees as to all qualified candidates for the specified position(s).

4. At this February meeting, the Standing Committee on Appointments having rendered its report, the Board of Trustees shall decide on the advisability of recommending a regular appointment for professor or associate professor, an interim appointment for instructor, or a lectureship.

5. Lectureships and interim appointments are to be recommended when the Board of Trustees is not ready to recommend a regular appointment. Lectureships and interim appointments are to be submitted to Synod for approval.

6. If a regular appointment is contemplated, the following rules shall prevail:

- a. A nomination shall be made consisting ordinarily of two names.
- b. The nomination shall be made at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees so as to give the Church ample time for consideration and to express possible objections.
- c. The nomination shall be published twice in the church papers.
- d. Candidates shall, if at all feasible, be interviewed personally by the Board of Trustees before being nominated.

7. The nomination shall be presented to Synod. If Synod is not satisfied with the nomination, it shall refer the matter to the Board of Trustees for a new nomination. Synod may make a temporary appointment until a regular appointment is made.

8. Regular appointments shall as a rule be for the rank of associate professor.

*Adopted.*

2. Your Committee further recommends that the rules listed shall supersede all previous rules governing appointments and tenure of Seminary professors. *Adopted.*

3. Your Committee recommends that Synod declare that the adoption of these rules be considered as answering the overtures referred to the Study Committee of the Board in so far as they apply to the Seminary (Overtures 10, 30 and 35, Acts 1952, Art. 193, p. 119).

*Adopted.*

4. Your Committee recommends that Synod declare that the adoption of these rules be considered as answering the overture of Classis Pacific concerning revision of the system of appointments to the chairs of the Seminary (Overture 18). *Adopted.*

5. Synod declare that the procedure presently employed in making additions to the College teaching staff, is an adequate answer to the overtures above mentioned in 3 and 4 above insofar as they pertain to the College. (Report of Committee on Educational Matters I Continued in Art. 124).

## ARTICLE 95

Report of Advisory Committee on *Indian and Foreign Missions*, Rev. G. Rozenboom, reporting:

## I. REPRESENTATION AT SYNOD.

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 25. See Supplement No. 25.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. The Mission Board requests that in addition to the Rev. H. Evenhouse, Sec. of Missions, the Board president, Dr. E. Y. Monsma, and its treasurer, Dr. Richard Wierenga, be permitted to represent the board at Synod, and be given the privilege of the floor on Mission matters. Your Advisory Committee recommends that this request be granted. *Adopted*.

2. The Rev. Donald Houseman has been appointed as representative of the General Conference on the Indian field. Your Advisory Committee recommends that he be given the privilege of the floor when Indian mission matters are discussed. *Adopted*.

## II. ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL.

A. *Materials*: Agenda Report No. 25, 25-A. See Supplements 25, 25-A.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. In order to stagger the terms of service for Mission Board members-at-large and to preclude the retirement of more than one of these members in the same year, the board requests Synod to change the Mission Order, Article I, Section 5, which makes no mention of length of terms of service to include "for three years," and Article II, Section 1, to read "three years" instead of "two years." *Adopted*.

2. The Board requests Synod to adjust the terms of Dr. E. Y. Monsma and Mr. J. T. Daverman to fit in with the above amendments. Dr. Monsma's term shall expire in 1954 and Mr. Daverman's term in 1955. *Adopted*.

3. Since Dr. Richard Wierenga will have completed nine years of service in the board and has carried the responsibilities of treasurer for three years, the board has expressed appreciation to Dr. Wierenga and suggests that Synod do likewise. The Advisory committee recommends that Synod express appreciation to Dr. Wierenga for his many years of valued service to the Board and the cause of heathen missions.

*Synod so decides.*

4. Mr. Alvin Huibregtse, for many years a teacher and principal in our Christian school system, was appointed as Assistant Secretary of Missions at the April meeting of the Executive Committee. Your committee recommends that his appointment be approved. *Adopted*.

## III. ANNUITIES.

A. *Materials*: Agenda Report 25. See Supplement No. 25. Report of Study Committee, Act 1952, pp. 293-300.

B. *Elucidation*. Action on the 1952 Study committee report was postponed so that the church and the Board of Missions might discuss the matter of annuities.

C. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod disapprove of the unqualified sale of annuities by ecclesiastical bodies, as recommended in the 1952 study committee report.

*Grounds*:

a. The church should not involve itself in business matters unduly.  
b. The commercial promotion and sale of annuities is apt to endanger true motivation in Christian giving. *Adopted*.

2. That Synod approve the position taken by the Board of Missions, re the receiving of annuities, viz.:

a. That the Board may receive annuities if the element of giving is predominant.

*Grounds*:

1. Such legitimate business is not morally wrong.
2. Such gifts allow for positive kingdom participation.
- b. That the Board does not solicit such annuities by advertisement.

*Grounds*:

1. Giving to the Church must not motivate from material gain.
2. Giving to the Church is a spiritual exercise in which the motivation of giving must remain predominant.

## 3. Your Committee recommends:

1. The plan of the Board of Missions differs materially from that which is termed "sale of annuities" in the 1952 Study Committee report, and from what is ordinarily denoted by that expression. Hence there is no real conflict.

2. The plan of the Board will permit the board to receive the exceptional gift which is thus offered it. *Adopted*.

## IV. DELEGATION TO THE SUDAN FIELD.

A. *Materials*: Agenda Report 25, See Supplement No. 25.

B. *Elucidation*: Our Nigerian General Conference presented a request that a delegation of the home board be sent to the field some time in the early part of 1954. This request was made because of the Sudan United Mission Jubilee which is scheduled for that time, and because there is need to consult with the mission authorities concerning further expansion of our work in the Tiv area.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod send such a delegation to the Sudan field.
2. That Synod approve of the delegation elected by the Board, Rev. H. J. Evenhouse and Mr. J. T. Daverman, with Rev. J. C. Verbrugge and Dr. H. J. Kreulen as their alternates. (Indian and Foreign Missions Continued in Art. 113). *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 96

The Report of the Advisory Committee on *Budget Matters*, Elder G. Kamp reporting:

## 1. CAUSES RECOMMENDED

A. *For one or more offerings*

1. National Union of Christian Schools
2. Korean Reformed Spiritual Relief
3. Christian Seamen's Home
4. Soldiers' Fund
5. Relief Fund for Unordained Workers employed by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. *Adopted.*

B. *Accredited Causes*1. *For Financial Support*

- a. Christian Labor Association
- b. American Home Bible League (World Home Bible League)
- c. Goffle Hill Sanatorium
- d. American Bible Society (U. S. Churches only)
- e. Lord's Day Alliance of the United States
- f. Bethesda Sanatorium
- g. Pine Rest Christian Association
- h. Reformed Bible Institute
- i. British and Foreign Bible Society (Canadian Churches only)
- j. Bethany Christian Home, Inc.
- k. Faith, Prayer, and Tract League
- l. Elim Christian Training School (Chicago)
- m. National Christian Association
- n. The Gideons (For Bible Distribution only)
- o. Young Calvinist Federation Servicemen's Fund
- p. Westminster Seminary
- q. Synodical Tract Committee
2. For Moral Support (No request for funds made)
  - a. American Federation of Reformed Young Women's Societies
  - b. The Young Calvinist Federation
3. *Recommended to Diaconates for Support*
  - a. Canadian Relief Fund. See Supplement No. 20.
  - b. Korean Material Relief. See Supplement No. 18. *Adopted.*



II. SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE

A. *Material:*

Agenda Report No. 36. See Supplement No. 36.

B. *Specific Request:* That Synod again recommend the Synodical Tract Committee to the churches for one or more offerings.

C. *Recommendation:*

Synod deny the request for one or more offerings for the period of one year.

*Ground:*

The financial report shows a balance of \$14,298.72 in this fund at the end of March, 1953, with disbursements during the previous year of only \$6,834.19. The budget committee holds that the accumulation of funds in this manner is not warranted. *Adopted.*

III. ZENDINGSGENOOTSCHAP DER EVANGELISCHE BROEDERGEMEENTE TE ZEIST, NETHERLANDS.

A. *Material:* Letter from this organization requesting financial assistance for the work in Suriname.

B. *Recommendation:* Synod deny the request for financial support.

*Ground:* At a time when requests for special offerings and increased quotas are increasing, the budget committee holds that approval of support of outside causes should be kept to a minimum. *Adopted.*

IV. REMUNERATION OF SYNODICAL OFFICERS

*Recommendation:*

Synodical Treasurer .....	\$500.00 per year
Stated Clerk .....	\$700.00 per year
First Clerk of Synod .....	\$100.00 per year
Second Clerk of Synod .....	\$ 50.00 per year
Dr. E. Y. Monsma for services during session of Synod .....	\$100.00 per year
Transportation Secretary .....	\$ 25.00 per year

*Adopted.*

V. PAYMENT OF QUOTAS FOR CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY DURING 1952.

A. The following Classes paid their quotas in full:

Chicago South, Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids South, Grand Rapids West, Holland, Muskegon, Orange City, Ostfriesland, Wisconsin, Zeeland.

B. The following Classes did not pay their quotas in full:

CLASSIS	CHURCHES	PAID IN FULL	IN ARREARS
Alberta .....	17	11	6
California .....	20	17	3
Chicago North .....	16	14	2
Hackensack .....	11	8	3
Hudson .....	15	14	1

Kalamazoo .....	15.....	14.....	1**
Ontario .....	38.....	0.....	38
Sioux Center .....	19.....	17*.....	2

\*\* Organized during 1952  
 \* One overpaid

C. The following Classes did not submit a report to the Stated Clerk of Synod:

Grand Rapids South, Minnesota, Pacific, Pella.

*Received as information.*

The Stated Clerk is instructed to write the Stated Clerks of the Classes which are in arrears urging them to meet their quotas.

VI. MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

A. *Materials:*

1. Certified Auditor's Report for 1952.
2. Report No. 32, Agenda 1953. See Supplement No. 32.
3. Proposed Budget for 1954.

B. *Request:*

An increase in quota of \$.25 for 1954, raising the quota to \$4.25 (cf. Supplement No. 32 part III, paragraph 2, and 1 under part VI.)

*Grounds:*

- a. The last three years this fund has been running in the red, since disbursements exceed receipts.
- b. The Committee feels that this trend towards depletion should be stopped and if possible reversed.
- c. Anticipated increase in the number of pensioners.

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod increase the quota for the Ministers' Pension Fund \$.25, making the quota \$4.25 for the year 1954. *Adopted.*

VII. BACK TO GOD HOUR BUDGET REQUEST

A. *Material:*

1. Financial Statement for Year 1952.
2. Financial Statement covering period Jan. 1, 1952, through May 31, 1953.
3. Auditor's Report dated April 23, 1953, covering Year 1952.
4. Agenda Report No. 14, See Supplements 14, 14-A.
5. Letter from Treasurer of Back to God Hour Committee, dated April 27, 1953, stating that an increase in the quota of \$.50 per family will be needed to cover the increased expenditures anticipated for 1954.
6. Recommendation of the Special Advisory Budget Committee.

B. *Recommendation:*

Your committee, after examining the proposed budget of the Back to God Hour for 1954, recommends that the quota for this cause be increased from \$6.50 to \$6.75 per family.

*Ground:*

This will help to take care of the increased overhead.

Note This \$.25 increase will not permit adding foreign nor domestic stations to our present log. *Adopted.*

## VIII. KNIGHTS OF CHRIST, INC.

A. *Material:*

Letter from this organization, requesting that they be placed on list of accredited causes.

Statement of offerings received from Christian Reformed churches, July 1, 1951, through June 30, 1952.

B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod deny the request of this organization to be placed on accredited list.

*Grounds:*

Your committee holds that at a time when requests for special offerings and larger quotas are increasing, approval of support of outside causes should be held to a minimum. *Adopted.*

## IX. CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY — BUDGET REQUEST.

A. *Materials:*

1. Financial Statements for Aug. 1st, 1951 — July 30th, 1952.
2. Letter of Finance Committee of Calvin College and Seminary dated May 5th, 1953.
3. The Supplementary Agenda Report No. 12-A, See Supplement 12-A.

The Board requests approval of a quota of ten dollars per family — the same as last year — for Calvin College and Seminary for 1954.

B. *Recommendation:*

Your Committee recommends that the quotas for this cause remain at \$10.00 per family.

*Reasons:*

The sum of \$10.00 per family is considered sufficient to meet the needs of Calvin College and Seminary

1. due to increase in the number of families,
2. a slight increase in tuition fees,
3. the full benefit of a \$2.00 raise in quotas, effective as per January 1, 1952. *Adopted.*

## X. CANADIAN IMMIGRATION FUND

A. *Material:*

Agenda Reports 24, 24-A. See Supplements 24, 24-A.

B. *Special Request:* That Synod recommend the Canadian Immigration Committee to the churches for a quota of \$2.00 per family for 1954.

C. *Recommendation:*

Your Committee concurs with the Standing Advisory Budget Committee, that the quota be determined at \$1.70, as was the case in 1952.

*Grounds:*

1. The quota of \$1.70, taking into consideration the estimated increase in families, will take care of their needs.

2. The Immigration Fund Committee decided to remunerate the part time fieldmen on a 50-50 basis, when and as they are duly appointed by the Committee, the Canadian churches being held responsible for the 50% of the part time fieldmen. (cf. Sup. Agenda Report 24-A, paragraph 7.) See Supplement 24-A. *Adopted.*

XI. CHURCH HELP FUND AND CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUILDING FUND

A. *Materials:*

1. Agenda Report No. 23. See Supplement No. 23.

2. Overture No. 46, Classis Hamilton.

3. Overture No. 51, Classis Eastern Ontario.

4. Overture No. 54, Classis Chatham.

5. Financial Statement for period March 6, 1952, to March 6, 1953.

B. *Requests:*

1. The Church Help Committee requests Synod to establish a quota for Church Help Fund and for the Emergency Building Fund. (cf. Agenda Report No. 23 and letter from the Treasurer).

2. They request a combined quota of \$9.00 per family for the year 1954. (cf. Agenda Report No. 23 and letter from the Treasurer).

3. Classis Hamilton and Classis Chatham request Synod to make provision for financial support by authorizing a financial drive for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund. (cf. Overtures 46 and 54).

4. Classis Eastern Ontario overtures Synod to establish a quota sufficiently large to enable the Church Help Fund Committee to honor all legitimate requests. (cf. Overture 51).

C. *Recommendation:*

1. That Synod grant the request of the Church Help Fund Committee to establish a quota for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund.

*Grounds:*

a. This will eliminate financial drives.

b. This will answer Classis Eastern Ontario's overture. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod establish a quota for the Church Help Fund in the amount of \$3.00 per family. *Adopted.*

(Note: See Reconsideration of these Matters in Arts. 98 and 107).

XII. SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON

A. *Material:*

1. Financial Report for 1952.

2. Proposed Budget for 1953.
3. Proposed Budget for 1954.
4. Classical Quota Report for 1952.
5. Agenda Reports No. 10, 10-A. See Supplements 10, 10-A.

B. *Request:*

That the 1954 quota be set at \$1.50 per family.

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod authorize a quota for 1954 of \$1.45 per family.

*Ground:*

According to the material investigated by your committee, the income obtained from the recommended quota will be sufficient to maintain the ministers in these fields, set up, the furlough reserve, and repay the \$10,000.00 loan made in accordance with the decision of the Synod of 1952. *Adopted.*

### XIII. SYNODICAL EXPENSE FUND

A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Report No. 46. See Supplement No. 46.

B. *Recommendation:*

Synod establish a quota of \$1.50 per family for 1954.

*Ground:*

Based on figures submitted by the Synodical treasurer, the suggested quota should be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses, and also enable the treasurer to repay all or most of the loans made from other funds, viz., Ecumenical Synod and Denominational Building. In connection with this quota the Stated Clerk reads the report of the Synodical treasurer, Mr. Tony Noordewier, showing that a quota of \$1.50 is needed. (Report on Budget Matters Continued in Art. 158).

### ARTICLE 97

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Varia*, cf. Art. 84, Rev. B. J. Haan reporting:

*Westminster Seminary and Accredited List.*

A. *Material:* Overture No. 48.

B. *Content:*

This overture seeks investigation of the Westminster Seminary on the matter of the relationship of this institution toward lodge membership, toward the stand of the church on divorce, the guarantee of the soundness and authority of the board which supervises this institution, its position on worldly amusements and on the subject of common grace, before placing this cause upon the accredited list for continued support.

C. *Investigation by the Advisory Committee.*

Your committee has consulted the Rev. R. B. Kuiper, one who has for years been a member of the faculty of this institution and at present is president of our Seminary, on all points in question. The brother

has given sufficient light on these matters to assure the church that there is no ground for believing that the position of Westminster on these issues differs substantially from that of our church. The Advisory Committee has asked brother Kuiper to represent our committee on the floor of Synod if necessary.

*D. Recommendations:*

1. That Synod recommend the Westminster Seminary to our churches for continued moral and financial support.

*Grounds:*

a. Investigation assures the church that there is no basis for questioning this institution on the score of its teaching or life.

b. The Budget Committee concurs with this recommendation.

*Adopted.*

2. That Synod regard this recommendation as its answer to the overture of the Edgerton consistory. *Adopted.*

(Varia Matters Continued in Art. 146).

ARTICLE 98

A motion to reconsider the matter of a quota for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund was adopted, and the quota was now rejected. See Art. 107.

ARTICLE 99

Reports concerning the illness of Mr. Albert Walma indicate that the brother will not be able to present himself to Synod for examination, Synod decides to refer his request for candidacy to a Synod Contractum composed of the delegates of the Classes Grand Rapids South, Grand Rapids West, Holland, and Zeeland, with power to declare Mr. Walma a Candidate for the Ministry upon satisfactory examination.

ARTICLE 100

Synod adjourns and Rev. W. Prince offers the closing prayer.

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**THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 18**

**Thirteenth Session**

ARTICLE 101

After Psalter Hymnal No. 319: 1, 3, is sung, Elder R. Dykstra leads in prayer.

ARTICLE 102

Roll Call is held and all delegates are present.

ARTICLE 103

The minutes of the Wednesday sessions are read and approved.

## ARTICLE 104

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Church Order*, cf. Arts. 40, 52, 82, Rev. A. Persenaire, reporting:

## NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF SYNOD

A. *Material:*

Overture No. 59 (Cf. Overtures 17 and 29).

B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod adopt this overture in a slightly revised form as follows:

That every nomination from the floor of Synod be submitted to the appropriate Advisory Committee, which shall serve Synod with advice re each nominee.

*Grounds:*

1. The consideration of all pertinent information in regard to a proposed nominee by such a committee would prevent hasty action on the floor of Synod.

2. It is the part of wisdom that every nominee from the floor of Synod shall be considered as carefully as a nomination presented to Synod by administrative Standing Committees and Boards.

3. That this rule shall go into effect after this Synod. (Church Order Matters Continued in Art. 127.) *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 105

Rev. J. De Kruyter presents the report of the Advisory Committee on *Home Missions*, cf. Art. 68, 69, 76.

*Additional Lay Members on General Committee for Home Missions*A. *Material:*

Overture 35 — "Classis Alberta overtures Synod that two members-at-large, who are not ministers, be added to the General Committee for Home Missions, one from the Eastern part of Canada, and one from the West."

B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not accede to the request of Classis Alberta.

*Grounds:*

1. Ministers are adequately able to represent the needs of their areas. See Ground one in overture.

2. Other areas of the church are not so represented. (Home Mission Report Continued in Art. 125). *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 106

Rev. A. De Kruyter reporting for the *Committee on Appointments* presents the following nominations:

## I. GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS . . .

A. *Member-at-large:*

Bert Brouwer, Henry S. Herrema, Cornelius Van Malsen.

Bert Brouwer is elected.

B. *Alternate:*

Henry S. Herrema, Cornelius Van Malsen.

Cornelius Van Malsen is elected.

C. Request of the General Committee that Mr. W. Hofstra be retained as assistant to the treasurer but without status as a member of the Committee.

*Grounds:*

1. The comprehensiveness of the treasurer's work.
2. Mr. Hofstra's acquaintance with the work.
3. Mr. Hofstra's availability for the work.

*Synod Approves.*

## II. CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS . . .

A. *Nomination to replace Dr. R. S. Wierenga:*

John Van Dellen, Bernard Velzen, Raymond Hoekstra.

John Van Dellen is elected.

B. *Nomination for General alternate for members-at-large:*

Dr. R. De Mol, Mr. R. Van Kuiken.

Dr. R. De Mol is elected.

## III. BACK TO GOD RADIO COMMITTEE . . .

Revs. L. Dykstra, H. Baker, A. De Kruyter, A. Hoogstrate, W. Haverkamp, W. Brink; and Dick Evenhouse, Gerrit H. Pals, Larry Zuiderveen, Peter Suwyn are nominated.

Rev. H. Baker, Rev. A. Hoogstrate, Dick Evenhouse, and Larry Zuiderveen are elected.

Mr. L. Bere is retained as assistant to the treasurer without status as a member of the committee as requested.

## IV. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION . . .

A. *To replace Rev. N. J. Monsma:*

Rev. T. Van Eerden, Dr. John Meeter.

Dr. J. Meeter is elected.

B. *To replace Mr. S. Van Til:*

Mr. Harry De Blaey and Richard Zuidema.

Harry De Blaey is elected.

## V. MINISTERS PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION . . .

A. *For regular member:*

Louis Heeres, Jacob E. Musch, Henry P. Ottenhof, George Tinholt,

Rev. J. O. Bouwsma.

Rev. J. O. Bouwsma and Louis Heeres are elected.

B. *For alternate:*

Walter De Hoog, Dick Hamming.

Walter De Hoog is elected.



## VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY . . .

A. As *Alternate* for Mr. B. Staal: John Veltkamp, Fred L. Winter.  
Fred L. Winter is elected.

B. As *Alternate* for J. De Nooyer: Ernest Feenstra, Mr. R. Stapert.  
Ernest Feenstra is elected.

C. As *Alternate* for Mr. G. Andreas: Mr. Hemmo Schreuder, Mr. John Brouwer.

John Brouwer is elected.

D. As *Alternate* for Mr. J. H. Fles: Arnold Hulst, Ben Smit.  
Arnold Hulst is elected.

E. *Summary for Information: Members-at-large:*

Eastern district: John Hamersma.....Alternate: S. Steen

Central District: L. Bere.....B. Vellinga

D. De Vries.....T. Ribbens

H. Holtvluwer.....J. Van't Hof

J. De Nooyer

B. Staal

H. Fles

Midwest District: G. Andreas

Farwest District: H. Elenbaas.....J. Hoeksema

## VII. PUBLICATION COMMITTEE . . .

A. *To replace Prof. Berkhof:*

Rev. J. Mulder, Rev. Thomas Yff.

Rev. John Mulder is elected.

B. *To replace F. Van Kleef:*

John Petersen, Raymond Van Kuiken.

John Petersen is elected.

C. *To replace Rev. C. Boomsma:*

Rev. C. Boomsma, Rev. C. O. Buus.

Rev. C. Boomsma is elected.

## VIII. SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE . . .

Evert Broene, Jacob De Jager, R. Weidenaar, C. De Bruyn, Dr. R. O. Groot, Rev. N. L. Veltman.

Mr. J. De Jager, Mr. R. Weidenaar, and Rev. N. L. Veltman are elected.

## IX. CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE:

Rev. Harold Dekker, Rev. G. Vander Kooi, Rev. S. Vroon, Mr. Harry Faber, Mr. John Steensma.

Rev. Harold Dekker, Mr. Harry Faber, and Rev. G. Vander Kooi are elected.

## ARTICLE 107

Rev. A. Persenaire presents the report of the Advisory Committee on *Church Order*:

*Canadian Emergency Building Fund.* See Arts. 96 and 98.

A. *Materials:*

Overtures 46, 51, 54

B. *Recommendations:*

1. Your Advisory Committee recommends that Synod, in response to Overtures 46 and 54, instruct their Church Help Committee to inaugurate another drive for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund in the amount of \$250,000.

*Grounds:*

The three grounds as given in the Overture No. 46 of Classis Hamilton. *Adopted.*

2. Further, we recommend that Synod declare that the adoption of the above recommendation be its answer to Overture No. 51 of Classis Ontario East. *Adopted.*

ARTICLE 108

Synod adjourns and Rev. H. Zwaanstra leads in closing prayer.

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 18**  
**Fourteenth Session**

ARTICLE 109

Synod sings Psalter Hymnal No. 182: 1, 5, and Elder J. Kruick offers prayer.

ARTICLE 110

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Education Matters I*, Dr. G. Heyns reporting:

Synod goes into strict executive session.

During the consideration of this matter Rev. J. T. Holwerda, secretary of the Board of Trustees, is given the privilege of the floor.

Synod decides that the newly adopted rules of the appointment of Seminary Professors go into effect after this Synod.

I. **NOMINATIONS**

A. *Materials:*

1. Overture from Classis Alberta (No. 14).
2. Overture from Kelloggsville Consistory (No. 26).
3. Overture from Byron Center Consistory (No. 27).
4. Overture from First Jenison Consistory (No. 28).
5. Report of the Board of Trustees, Agenda Report No. 12, II, A,
6. See Supplement No. 12.
6. Report of the Board of Trustees (Suppl. Agenda Report 12-A, II, A, 1, 7). (See Supplement No. 12-A.)

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Prof. R. B. Kuiper be reappointed for another year as Acting President of the Seminary with a limited teaching load in the

Department of Practical Theology. (Note. We call Synod's attention to the information given by the Board of Trustees that arrangements are being made to have Prof. Kuiper's membership and ministerial status transferred to our denomination). (See Supplement No. 12-A).

*Adopted.*

2. a. That Synod appoint two men for the department of Practical Theology, one (a lectureship) to begin immediately in September, 1953, for Church Government and related subjects; and the other (an instructorship) to begin in September, 1954, after a year's study, to teach Homiletics and related subjects. *Adopted.*

b. For the lectureship in Practical Theology I, to begin in September, 1953, and for a one-year term, your committee recommends the nomination of Revs. G. Gritter, M. Monsma and J. Weidenaar. The nomination is approved and discussed. Prayer for guidance in all the voting which is to be done in connection with this report, is offered by Elder M. Kulikamp. Ballots are cast and Rev. M. Monsma is elected.

c. For the instructorship in Practical Theology II, to begin in September, 1954, your committee recommends the nomination of Revs. Peter H. Eldersveld, C. Kromminga, and Dr. A. Hoeksema, Rev. E. Ubels. Synod adds Rev. G. Gritter and Prof. J. Weidenaar. The nomination is discussed. Ballots are cast and Rev. C. Kromminga is elected.

3. That Dr. John H. Kromminga be appointed to the Chair of Church History, as Associate Professor, for a term of two years.

*Adopted.*

4. That Dr. Henry Stob be appointed to the Chair of Ethics and Apologetics, as Associate Professor, for a term of two years. *Adopted.*

a. The matter of salary of both Dr. John Kromminga and of Dr. Henry Stob is referred to the Board of Trustees.

b. The matter of possible ordination of Dr. Henry Stob:

1.) Synod declare that as soon as Dr. Stob has informed Synod or the Stated Clerk that he has accepted the appointment, he be declared eligible for the office of the Gospel Ministry;

2.) Synod request the Calvin Christian Reformed Church to call Dr. H. Stob to the Gospel Ministry with a view to his serving the Church as Professor of Theology in our Seminary;

3.) Synod request the consistory of our Calvin Christian Reformed Church to ordain Dr. H. Stob after due examination by Classis Grand Rapids East. *Adopted.*

5. That Prof. Henry Schultze be asked to continue in his present capacity as Professor Extraordinary in the New Testament Department.

*Adopted.*

6. That Synod appoint a lecturer in Missions for a term of one year. *Defeated.*

This matter of the Chair of Missions is referred back to the advisory committee. See Art. 124 for decision of Synod.

7. a. That Synod invite one or more men to serve as lecturers in New Testament Department. *Adopted.*

b. That Synod appoint Dr. Ralph Stob as lecturer in New Testament for a term of one year. *Adopted.*

c. That Dr. R. Stob for that purpose be given a year's leave of absence from the College. *Adopted.*

d. That Synod invite Dr. Herman Ridderbos as lecturer in New Testament for the second semester, 1953-54. *Rejected.*

e. Synod decides to give Rev. M. Monsma and Dr. Ralph Stob Faculty Status during their term of service.

8. Your Committee recommends the following as nominees for the Chair in Dogmatics for a term of two years.

Dr. J. H. Bruinooge, Dr. R. J. Danhof, Dr. Herman Kuiper, and Rev. J. K. Van Baalen.

Dr. H. Kuiper is elected.

9. a. Your Committee recommends that Synod approve a lectureship in the department of Dogmatics. *Adopted.*

b. Synod invite Dr. Fred Klooster as a lecturer in Dogmatics for this coming school year for a one year term. *Adopted.*

10. Your Committee recommends that, if any of the positions for which Synod is now making an appointment, is not filled, Synod authorize the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to fill such position on a temporary basis. *Adopted.*

11. Your Committee has given due consideration to all names suggested in Overtures 14, 26, 27, 28, and requests Synod to declare that the nominations as accepted by Synod constitute an answer to these overtures. *Adopted.*

#### VI. RESOLUTION OF CLASSIS CHICAGO SOUTH

A. *Material:* A resolution from Classis Chicago South which reads: "In view of the high esteem in which Dr. Henry Stob has been held in our church, we are convinced the Board of Trustees has cast unjustifiable reflection upon his work and position in our church in postponing their decision re his reappointment only."

B. *Recommendation:* Your Committee recommends that Synod receive this document as information. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 111

At the close of this session Rev. M. Ouwinga voices our thanks to God.

## THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 18

## Fifteenth Session

## ARTICLE 112

Synod sings No. 254, after which Rev. R. Rienstra leads in prayer. Rev. E. Bradford present instead of Rev. C. Boomsma, expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity.

## ARTICLE 113

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Indian and Foreign Missions*, Rev. G. Rozenboom reporting:

*Mission Principles Study. (Education)* (Rev. H. Petroelje is given right of the floor to represent the Minority opinion of the Study Committee).

A. *Materials*: Agenda Report No. 15, pp. 73-93; Supp. Agenda Report No. 25-A; Indian General Conference document in re Study Committee Report. See Supplement No. 15, 25-A.

B. *History*: Synod of 1952 received a detailed report from the Mission Principles Study Committee dealing with indigenous mission principles in re Evangelism, Medical work, and Education. Synod approved of the spirit and general content of the report as it relates to the matters of Evangelism and Medical work. It also instructed the Committee to draw up a concise and specific formulation of these principles in its completed report to the Synod of 1953. In respect to Education, Synod did not declare itself on either the Majority or Minority report, but instructed the study committee to complete its work, hopeful that greater unanimity might be attained on the problem of Missions and Education. This Synod is faced with the summary statements regarding Evangelization and Medical work, the majority and minority reports and summarized statements on Education, regulations re the application of these principles, and specific application of these principles and regulations to the Indian Mission Field.

C. *Comment*: It is the conviction of your committee that in the matter of Education particularly, the Indian Mission Field is a very special case (because of geographical location, history, previous Synodical commitments, etc.), and therefore ought to be dealt with accordingly. Hence when Synod seeks to draw up a statement of principle regarding Education in relation to indigenous missions, it should not allow itself to be unduly influenced by an existing situation on the Indian field. Let Synod strive for the ideal — i.e. the Scriptural principle. Your committee has so addressed itself to the problem, pretending for the moment, that the Indian field did not exist, and submitting what it believes to be a brief workable and Scriptural statement.

Furthermore your committee took cognizance of Synod's suggestion to the study committee, viz. to attempt coming to greater unanimity, and

has wrestled to accomplish just that, by avoiding the extremes of both reports.

D. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod thank the Mission Principles Study Committee for its labors in completing their report. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod approve of the work of the Study Committee in summarizing the mission principles on *Evangelism*, and adopt these summary statements as its own.

a. Evangelism is that activity of the instituted Church which concerns itself directly with the missionary proclamation of the Gospel.

b. The evangelistic task is performed by preaching and teaching, i.e., the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel.

c. The missionary is not called to transmit his own culture to the mission field, but to proclaim the Gospel which itself has the power to vitalize all that is good and to excise all that is evil in the cultural life of the people he serves.

d. It is necessary for the missionary to know the religion, customs, and life of the people among whom he works in order to a relevant proclamation of the Gospel.

e. Since language is the door to the soul of a people, it must be mastered by the missionary, if the Gospel is to be effectively proclaimed by him.

f. The basic condition for baptism is faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. Where that is present and exemplified in life, baptism should not be unduly postponed in the interest of a high standard of doctrinal knowledge.

g. Continued nurture in the faith after baptism is as much a duty of the Church as pre-baptismal instruction.

h. The exercise of discipline is essential before, as well as after, the organization of a church.

i. The founding of congregations should take place as soon as the three marks of the Church can be maintained.

j. A church duly constituted has equal standing in dignity and law with all other churches. The sending church, recognizing this, will increasingly encourage the new church to assume her full responsibility.

k. Financial support of the younger churches by the sending church should be held to the minimum compatible with their spiritual welfare; while their self-support should be the maximum allowed by their economic situation.

l. Converts as prophets, priests, and kings under Christ, must be stimulated to witness to the faith that is in them by word and deed.

m. The training of natives for evangelistic work and the development of a native ministry is essential for the building up of an indigenous church.

n. The missionary proclamation of the Church rests for its power and effect wholly on the work of the Holy Spirit. For Scriptural substantiation see Acts. 1952, p. 188ff. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod approve the work of the Study Committee in summarizing the mission principles on *Medical Work*, as amended in points 2, 3, and 7. Points 2 and 3 have been joined and a direct statement from the original study committee report has been substituted. The wording of point 7 has been slightly altered. The principles as altered are:

a. Medical Missions means the use of medical knowledge and skills in Christ's Name for alleviating sufferings in the Mission area to promote the Gospel.

b. Although Jesus did practice the healing ministry, and commanded His disciples to do so, there is no specific command given in the Bible that the Church must engage in medical missions. If the Church is to carry on medical missions on a Biblical basis therefore, the warrant for it will have to be found not in a specific injunction, but in what may be inferred from the Bible on the score of mercy and compassion as peculiar properties of Christ's ambassadors.

c. The Mission seeks to plant the life of love in heathendom and the ministry of medicine is well suited to express this love in the context of the evangelical witness.

d. Medical Missions aims at alleviating the sufferings in its area; at counteracting superstitions and the power of the medicine man; at making Christ known through the medical profession; at serving as a valuable and related auxiliary for proclaiming the Gospel; and at helping to break down resisting attitudes.

e. The medical department must be integrated with the total mission witness as it manifests the fullness and riches of the redeeming Christ.

f. The scope of medical work must be governed by indigenous policies, that is, such as reckon with native support and participation.

g. To be a worthy auxiliary in evangelism, the medical department must ever avoid the dangers of becoming an end in itself and of using high pressure methods of evangelism. For Scriptural substantiation see Acts. 1952, p. 188ff. *Synod adopts also these as its own.*

4. With respect to the Mission Principles Study on *Education*, your committee recommends that Synod adopt the Minority Report, in its general conclusion only and not in its detailed statements. Your committee interprets the general conclusion of the minority position to be, that Education on the mission field be limited as much as possible to a literacy program in keeping with the performance of the evangelistic task — viz. the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel, and the encouragement of native covenantal schools.

- a. *Grounds for rejection of detailed statements of Minority Report:*
1. There is much misunderstanding regarding some of these details.
  2. Some of the detailed statements tend to confuse the basic issue of Education on the Mission Field.
  3. Part of the detailed statements are concerned with rebuttal, and Synod should interest itself in a positive statement of principle.
- b. *Grounds for the recommendation:*
1. This general conclusion has the support of Scripture. Statements such as contained in Matt. 28:19 and Mark 16:16, "teaching (or making disciples of) all nations" and "preaching to every creature," allow education to literacy so that people may be able to read the Bible and understand it when preached. Covenantal schools have the same basis on the Mission field as at home where the church is "to see to it that there are good Christian schools."
  2. It gives emphasis to the main task of Missions as prescribed in Holy Writ and the study committee report on Evangelization, viz. the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel.
  3. It is thoroughly consonant with the principle of indigeneity.
  4. It allows sufficient flexibility to cope with extraordinary situations.
  5. It fosters normal birth and development of native covenantal schools on the mission fields. *Adopted.*
- (Indian and Foreign Missions Report Continued in Art. 118).

## ARTICLE 114

Synod recesses and Elder H. A. Wierenga offers the closing prayer.

**FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 19**  
**Sixteenth Session**

## ARTICLE 115

Synod is called to order and sings 293 and Elder N. Krediet offers the opening prayer.

## ARTICLE 116

The Roll is called. Elder C. Mantel has gone home. Elder Sall is back in the place of Elder Wabeke and Rev. C. Boomsma has again assumed his place as delegate of Grand Rapids East.

## ARTICLE 117

The Minutes of the Thursday sessions are read and adopted.

## ARTICLE 118

Synod returns to the discussion of the report on *Mission Principles*, cf. Arts. 95, 113, Rev. G. Rozeboom reporting:

## I. MISSION PRINCIPLES STUDY (REGULATION)

A. *Materials:* Majority and Minority Report in Agenda. See Supplement No. 15.



B. *Recommendations:*

1. The Advisory Committee recognizes the faithful labors of the Study Committee in drawing up regulations according to the mandate of Synod, and recommends that the Board of Missions be instructed to revise, for Synod's approval, the Mission Order. After gaining suggestions from the several fields, the revision shall take special note of the statements of principle adopted by Synod and the regulations suggested by the study committee.

*Grounds:*

a. The Mission Order contains some obsolete provisions.  
 b. It is desirable that officially adopted principles and their application be set forth in the authoritative Mission Order.

2. Your Committee wishes to inform Synod that in the Study Committee report on Regulations as these pertain to General Conferences (pp. 81 Agenda, 4, a.), we express disagreement with the last sentence, and would amend it to read as follows: "The membership, organization, and activities of these conferences shall be determined by the Board as set forth in the Organizational Chart."

*Grounds:*

a. This is in line with Art. 4 of the Mission Order.  
 b. This provides for proper assignment of responsibility and delegation of authority. *Adopted.*

II. MISSION PRINCIPLES STUDY (APPLICATION TO INDIAN FIELD)

A. *Materials:* Agenda Report 25, IV. See Supplement No. 25, IV.

B. *Introduction:* Your committee has recognized that the Indian field is extraordinary, in that it is a Heathen Mission within our borders; that it has a long history of Educational Missions; that Synod in the past has made certain pronouncements which are in conflict with principles now adopted; and that it has special problems with respect to language, competition in the field, etc. Hence a strict application of indigenous mission principles is not at present possible in all details. However, your committee does believe that a determined effort ought to be made to apply these principles according to following statements.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. That our Mission staff make more personal and more intensive efforts to learn the Navajo language. *Adopted.*

2. That the school pupils be taught to read the Bible in their native language. *Adopted.*

3. That the adult literacy program be accelerated. *Adopted.*

4. That greater use be made of the services of Christian Indians in our evangelistic and other Mission activities. *Adopted.*

5. That the Board and General Conference move in the direction of establishing a training school for native workers for suitable Reformed instruction. *Adopted.*

6. That Synod make no declaration at present on points "f", "g", and "h" of the Study Committee report.

*Ground:* The Board and general conference are at present making a special study of the nature of the Churches to be organized on the Indian field, whether these shall be Christian Reformed Churches or native churches without direct connection with our Christian Reformed denominational system. A report on this matter under "f", "g", and "h", are all involved in this study. *Adopted.*

7. That the medical work be continued with existing facilities, (except where State standards demand adjustments), with increases in out-station visits, care-cost payments by Indians, and training of native nurses. *Adopted.*

8. That the educational work at Rehoboth make more positive contributions to our evangelistic program, to the needs of the Indian students, and to fostering greater participation and support by Navajo parents. *Adopted.*

9. That the Zuni Mission staff make more personal and more intensive use of the Zuni language in their evangelistic and educational ministries; *Defeated.*

10. That the cooperation of the Zuni Christians be enlisted in the construction of a suitable chapel for the clear evangelistic witness in their midst; *Adopted.*

11. That the school at Zuni commence in September, 1954 to fix tuition rates for its pupils. *Adopted.*

12. That all further expansion be in terms of establishing indigenous church and in furthering indigenous Kingdom activity, and that all increases in white personnel, buildings, and finances contribute directly and strictly to the evangelistic task of proclaiming the Gospel. *Tabled.*

It is moved that Synod decide that all further expansion be in terms of the establishment of the native church with a minimum of increase in budgetary outlay for the Indian field.

Any increase in budget, building, or personnel would be by decision of the Synod only. *Adopted.*

13. That "o" of the study committee report be deleted, since the position of the General Conference is dealt with under "Regulations" in VI. B. 3 of this report. *Adopted.*

14. That the decision under 11 be Synod's answer to the overture No. 61 from Roseland III, Chicago, re the Zuni tuition plan. *Adopted.*  
(Indian and Foreign Missions Report Continued in Art 133.)

## ARTICLE 119

A letter of Dr. Ralph Stob is read expressing his great appreciation of the appointment given him, and promising to give it serious consideration. He requests a copy of the resolution, and information in regard to courses, etc. The Clerk will furnish him with the resolution and the request for information is referred to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE 120

The First Clerk gives notice that he intends to protest point 4 adopted in connection with Missionary Principles. See Article 141.

## ARTICLE 121

At the close of this session Elder G. Veenboer leads in prayer.

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**FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 19**  
**Seventeenth Session**

## ARTICLE 122

After Psalter Hymnal No. 48: 1, 2 has been sung Elder P. Hekman invokes the divine blessing.

## ARTICLE 123

Prof. R. B. Kuiper thanks Synod for the reappointment given him. He accepted a similar appointment last year because he felt that the Lord was leading him in that direction. He gladly accepts. The Chair responds with fitting words. A letter of Dr. J. H. Kromminga is read expressing his thanks for the appointment given him. He accepts the appointment and hopes for God's blessing upon the work. The letter is received as information and the Chair addresses fitting words to Dr. Kromminga.

A letter of Rev. Carl G. Kromminga is read in which he thanks Synod for the appointment given him and promises to give it serious consideration. The letter is received as information and the Chair wishes for him the guidance of God.

## ARTICLE 124

Dr. G. Heyns, for the Advisory Committee on *Educational Matters I*, cf. Arts. 91, 94, 110, presents the following: *re the Chair of Missions*:

1. That Synod ask Prof. R. B. Kuiper to teach a course in Missions during the coming school year, inasmuch as he has declared his readiness to do so. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod request the Board of Trustees to again consider the needs of the Chair of Missions and to come to the Synod of 1954 with recommendations re provision for this chair. *Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 125

Synod takes up the report of the Advisory Committee on *Home Missions*, cf. Arts. 68, 69, 76, 105, Rev. J. De Kruyter reporting:

## I. ALASKA.

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 21-A. See Supplement 21-A.

B. *History*.

1. After much agitation, our Mission Committee decided that the population then in Alaska, and the great need for evangelization at home, do not warrant our entrance into the Alaska field. Synod sustained this judgment. Acts 1951, pg. 33, b and c.

2. In February of 1952 the General Home Missions committee, in view of the fact that several of our youth were reported in military service there, decided to conduct a thorough preliminary investigation of the field.

3. Rev. J. Vande Kieft conducted a paper investigation and in the fall of 1952 actually visited the field in Alaska. His report was favorable.

4. In February of 1953 the General committee decided to place a service-pastor missionary in the field. A nomination was made. Rev. W. Heynen was called and has accepted.

C. *Recommendation*:

1. That Synod approve the inauguration of service-pastor work and evangelism in Alaska.

*Grounds*:

a. The large number of servicemen stationed in Alaska would warrant such work.

b. The isolation to which these men are subjected.

c. The spiritual peril whereby they are threatened.

d. A small nucleus of Christian Reformed residents in Alaska.

*Adopted.*

2. That Synod draw the attention of the General Home Missions Committee to Article 5-f of its Mission Order and ask it to conform in the future.

a. It is here stated that the work of the committee shall be to "arrange, in conformity with the stipulations of the Church Order, for the calling of missionaries for definite fields *when Synod so authorizes.*"

b. Synod of 1952 only authorized the Executive Committee of Home Missions to make a thorough investigation and "if findings warrant, an itinerary may be made." Yet the committee proceeded to take steps to call a missionary in a new field, Alaska.

c. The Executive Committee recognized this procedure. See Minutes, August 20, 1952. "If action on the part of the General Committee

to begin work in Alaska was favorable, to seek the approval of the present Synod." *Adopted.*

## II. COMMUNICATIONS RE ALASKA FROM REV. C. L. VAN ZEE.

### A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Report No. 21-B. See Supplement 21-B.
2. Letter addressed to our Advisory committee by Van Zee.
3. Letter addressed to Consistories of Christian Reformed Churches.
4. Letter addressed to Stated Clerk of Synod, June 8, 1953.

### B. *Observations:*

1. Charges have been alleged against the Home Missions Committee. See letter addressed to Synod's advisory committee.
2. The Home Missions Committee has summarized said charges. See 21-B, See Supplement 21-B.

### C. *Our Findings:*

1. We have found the Rev. Van Zee to be possessed of great interest in the cause of Home Missions. We wish to commend him for this.
2. Your committee is of the mind that his charges are not well-founded.
  - a. They are largely a matter of criticism of our Home Missions Order and procedure, and are not so much allegations against the committee.
  - b. The General Committee for Home Missions and its Executive Committee is authorized to activate the synodically approved Home Missions program according to Synodically approved procedure. In only one instance was it proved that the Missions Committee violated its rules of order.
3. In listing his charges the brother uses intemperate language. See 21-B, 2. Also letter addressed to Advisory committee, point 1.
4. He was indiscreet in circularizing our consistories with his protests and charges.

### *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod declare that the charges alleged by the Rev. C. Van Zee against the General Committee on Home Missions, with one exception, were unfounded.
2. That Synod declare its disapproval of Rev. Van Zee's intemperate language and indiscreet methods.
3. That Synod demand that Rev. Van Zee desist from circularizing the churches with his protests and charges, and that he use the appointed channels of ecclesiastical procedure.
4. That Synod recommend Rev. Van Zee to Classis Minnesota for guidance. *Adopted.*

## III. CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE.

A. *Material*:

Agenda Report No. 8-A. See Supplement 8-A.

B. *Recommendation*:

That Synod note with gratitude that two of our graduates this year have applied for commissioning with a view to immediate active duty service. *Adopted*.

(Report on Home Missions Continued in Art. 128).

## ARTICLE 126

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Varia*, Rev. B. J. Haan reporting, is continued:

## I. DECISION OF 1952 SYNOD.

A. *Material*: Overture 20 (Classis Ostfriesland).

B. *The Rule of Synod in question*: — Motions to bring matters once decided again before Synod. Cf. *Rules for Synodical Procedure*, p. 18, G; Cf. also Schaver, *The Polity of the Churches*, Vol. II, pages 308, 309.

C. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod declare that the above rule in question applies to an ordinary motion but does not apply to an overture. *Adopted*.

2. That Synod regard this recommendation as its answer to the overture of Classis Otsfriesland on the matter. *Adopted*.

## II. DECISION OF 1951 SYNOD RE N.A.E.

B. *Content*:

Classis Ostfriesland considers the Synod of 1951 to have erred in tabling the report of its advisory committee since it involved the report of a study committee which was to give guidance in the decision respecting our relationship to the N.A.E. and requests Synod to take up this report for proper consideration. It also requests that Synod supply grounds for its decision re N.A.E. in the light of the principles considered.

C. *Analysis of this Overture*:

Your advisory committee traces the following pattern of argumentation in this overture:

The overture proceeds upon the assumption that the committee of Synod on Inter-Church relations was appointed mainly for the purpose of giving the church guidance in the matter of its relationship to the N.A.E. However, Synod decided on the question of the N.A.E. before it took final action upon the study committee's report, even though this report was discussed on the floor of Synod, and a decision was made that the Synod was not prepared to accept these principles at this time, before it took action re the N.A.E. The failure of the Synod

of 1951 to give grounds for its action re the withdrawal from the N.A.E. raises the question whether or not Synod was adequately prepared for its decision in view of the fact that the matter of principle was undecided and seems to support the position of a previous Synod when it warned future Synods not to attempt any decision with regard to our affiliation except in the light of the principles adopted on inter-church relationships. Consequently the matter of Synod's action in 1951 both in its material and formal aspects is thrown into question and requires that Synod reexamine its procedure and decisions so that the church may find rest in its actions.

D. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod appoint a committee to study this overture and to advise the Synod of 1954 on the whole matter of the overture.

*Grounds:*

a. It cannot be denied that the action of the Synod of 1951 is being questioned from both material and formal considerations.

b. The opening of the question leads to problems which would prove difficult to dispose of at this Synod. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod regard this as its answer to the overture of Classis Ostfriesland on this matter. *Adopted.*

See Art. 164 for Study Committee.

#### ARTICLE 127

The report of the Advisory Committee on *Church Order*, Cf. Arts. 40, 52, 82, 104, 107, is continued, Rev. A. Persenaire reporting:

##### I. ECUMENICITY AND INTER CHURCH CORRESPONDENCE.

###### A. *Materials:*

1. Agenda Report No. 42. See Supplement No. 42.

2. Letter addressed to Synod by the Reformed Churches of Australia.

###### B. *Contents:*

1. The Report deals with the following three matters:

a. General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church.

b. The Reformed Churches of Australia.

c. Communications from the Synod of Graafschapt-Bentheim-Ostfriesland.

2. In the letter from the Reformed Churches of Australia we are requested to grant unto them the status of a sister-church.

###### C. *General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church:*

###### 1. *Information.*

This is a new denomination in Korea, consisting of some 355 churches, small and large. It must be distinguished from the General Assembly of the Korean Presbyterian Church. The latter cast out the

former. Its initial assembly was held on the second Tuesday of September, 1952. The Report states: "This Presbytery is the continuation of true Presbyterianism in Korea. Its members sought to perpetuate an undiluted Calvinism in the old church, but met with rebuff instead of appreciation. After the World War it called upon all the former church to repentance and a sincere confession of the sin of Shinto-worship. During the war some of the leaders suffered prison sentences rather than idolatry. When communism infiltrated Korea many were translated to eternity through the portals of martyrdom. They are not sectarians but honest followers of our Lord who have given them to see the truth as we Reformed people know it."

The Presbytery "maintains a Korean Theological Seminary at Pusan, staffed with men with both conviction and ability and a contagious zeal for the Reformed Faith. Their one desire is to spearhead Calvinism in Korea, the only nation on the Asiatic continent free to do so."

This Presbytery has also been the recipient of the spiritual relief which our Church has sent to Korea. Moreover, the Rev. R. Sutton, our missionary to Japan, sent the Committee a letter wherein he highly recommends this new denomination to our sympathetic interest.

The Report further includes two communications received from this Presbytery wherein our Church is thanked for the relief sent, is asked to send missionaries, and that it be acknowledged by us as a corresponding church.

## 2. Recommendations:

a. Your committee recommends to Synod to grant the General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church the status of corresponding church.

(NOTE: "This status usually implies wherever feasible there shall be delegation to a corresponding church's major assembly. It is not prohibitive as far as time, expense, and travel convenience nor empty ecclesiastical pageantry to send one of our missionaries in Japan to this church's Assembly. The close contact between the Reformed Church in Japan, the Kobe Seminary and Korean Theological Seminary would have a triangular benefit for the two churches and our own denomination.")

The Advisory Committee recommends the adoption of this recommendation. *Adopted.*

b. Our committee has no recommendation re sending missionaries to Korea. This is not within the province of our committee. *Officially* our Mission Board has not been notified of this request, but perhaps said Board could advise Synod in this matter. We are happy that in an era of shrinking mission fields there is an open field, at least still open, to spread the Reformed Faith. There is the Korean Macedonian



crying: "Come over and help us!" Our committee has decided to inform Synod.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the matter of sending missionaries to Korea be referred to the Foreign Mission Board, who may offer advice on it to the Synod of 1954. *Adopted.*

c. The Standing Committee recommends that Synod transmit to our members the gratitude of this denomination for the appreciated help we were privileged to give. Such could be done through the news reports of Synod in the *Banner* and the *Wachter*.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Standing Committee itself prepare an article for the *Banner* and the *Wachter* wherein they express this gratitude. (Cf. what is given under "e" below.) *Adopted.*

d. The Standing Committee would recommend Synod to address an epistle of encouragement to our brethren in Korea specifically in their stand for the Reformed Faith, and also in their hour of suffering and trial.

The Advisory Committee recommends the adoption of "d", and that the Stated Clerk of Synod be instructed to do so. *Adopted.*

e. The Standing Committee states: "We have no recommendation re the publishing of the history of this Church in our church press. It is a history of sacrifice and martyrdom that inspires us. Our editors can obtain the document at any time."

The Advisory Committee recommends that Synod receive this as information. *Adopted.*

#### D. *Reformed Churches in Australia*

##### 1. *Information:*

This is a new denomination in Australia, composed of brethren of the faith who have emigrated from the Netherlands. Most of the members of this Church formerly belonged to the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands. They established their own denominational life in the country of their adoption, because they could not feel at home in the Free Presbyterian Church with which they affiliated first.

##### 2. *Recommendation:*

That said new denomination, the Reformed Churches of Australia, receive the status of a sister church.

The Advisory Committee moves the adoption of this recommendation.

##### *Grounds:*

a. These Churches adhere to the Three Forms of Unity and have adopted the Church Order of Dordt.

b. These Reformed brethren are asking for this status of a sister church, as they feel the need of a close association with other truly Reformed Churches. *Adopted.*

F. *Communications of the Synod of Graafschapt-Bentheim-Ostfriesland.* See Supplement No. 42.

1. *Information:*

These are sister churches in Germany which our Church has supported immediately after world war II. They have addressed two communications to our Synod which the Standing Committee has incorporated in its Report. This Committee calls "Synod's attention to the information these letters contain, definitive of a mutual faith, a fraternal love, and a desire on the part of the German Churches to thank our Church for what we were privileged to do for them in their post-war era."

2. *Recommendation:*

That we adopt the recommendations found in the Report of the Standing Committee.

a. Synod receive these communications from our German sister churches as information.

b. Synod instruct its stated clerk to wish the brethren, on behalf of Synod, the blessings of our covenant God upon all their work.

c. Synod reply to the Altreformierte Kirchen in Niedersachsen that the desire for closer contact is mutual, and that it will instruct its committee on ecumenicity to take this under advisement. *Adopted.*

II. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD

A. *Material:*

Overture No. 66.

B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not adopt this overture.

*Grounds:*

1. The time is not ripe to do this at present.

a. In view of the fact that the introduction of Particular Synods is being contemplated.

b. Since this matter has not come to the attention of the churches and classes first.

2. There are weighty considerations against this proposal which ought to be seriously considered.

a. The Synod of 1936 stated: "It is a recognized principle of Reformed Polity that as many as possible attend the major ecclesiastical assemblies." (Acts, Art. 77, III, p. 78).

b. The work of Synod is usually so voluminous that many committees must be appointed. These committees must be properly manned. We believe here the scriptural injunction would apply: "In the multitude of counselors there is wisdom."

3. Although it is true that the number of delegates to Synod has become larger, it is also a fact that the number of congregations has greatly increased. *Adopted.*

### III. NOMINATIONS FOR THE SEMINARY

#### A. *Material:*

##### Overture 17.

#### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That with respect to the above overture (See Art. 94,) as adopted by Synod, substantially establishes the position of the overture, since it contemplates no nominations from the floor, except in the case of temporary appointments. *Adopted.*

2. Your Committee recommends, however, that this Rule be amended by the addition of the following: But in unforeseen or very exceptional cases Synod may waive the rule and refer nominations for definite appointments from the floor of Synod to the appropriate Advisory Committee. The Rule as amended would then read as follows:

The nomination shall be presented to Synod. If Synod is not satisfied with the nomination, it shall refer the matter to the Board of Trustees for a new nomination. Synod may make a temporary appointment until a regular appointment is made. But in unforeseen or very exceptional cases Synod may waive the rule and refer nominations for definite appointments from the floor of Synod to the appropriate Advisory Committee. *Rejected.*

### IV. MODIFICATION OF RULE RE SEMINARY PROFESSORS

#### A. *Material:*

##### Overture 29.

#### B. *Content:*

This overture desires that Synod will "modify its rule Re the appointment of Seminary Professors to include the provision that nominations from the floor of Synod shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary for advisement and possible approval." Five grounds are added.

#### C. *Recommendation:*

Synod declare that it consider Overture 29 answered by the Rule found in the Report of the Advisory Committee I on Educational Matters. See Art. 94, and by the adoption of Overture 59, in Art. 104.

*Adopted.*

### V. REPORTS OF SYNODICAL EXAMINERS

#### A. *Examination of Candidates*

The following Synodical Examiners attended the Classical Examination of the following Candidates and unanimously approved their admittance to the ministry of the Word and the Sacraments:

CANDIDATES	CLASSIS	EXAMINERS	CLASSIS
A. DeJager	Alberta	J. Vanden Hoek	Minnesota South
		R. H. Haan	Pacific
		B. J. Haan	Sioux Center
H. Leestma	Chicago North	P. Holwerda	Chicago South
		O. Breen	Holland
		N. Jansen	Wisconsin
F. Klooster	Chicago South	W. Kok	Chicago North
		P. Jonker	Grand Rapids West
		N. Jansen	Wisconsin
R. Baker	G. R. East	L. Greenway	G. R. South
B. Van Someren		C. Vanden Heuvel	G. R. West
		J. H. Bruinooge	Zeeland
R. Sytsma	G. R. South	L. Veltkamp	Muskegon
		A. W. Hoogstrate	Holland
		C. Vanden Heuvel	G. R. West
L. Van Drunen	G. R. West	J. H. Bruinooge	Zeeland
G. Terpstra		L. Greenway	G. R. South
W. Swierenga		C. Huissen	G. R. East
R. Sutton	Holland	J. H. Bruinooge	Zeeland
		L. Veltkamp	Muskegon
		P. Jonker	G. R. West
M. Baarman	Hudson	H. Bouma	Hackensack
E. Callender		E. B. Pekelder	Kalamazoo
		J. Gritter	Ontario
B. Ypma	Hudson	H. Bouma	Hackensack
		J. Ehlers	Kalamazoo
		J. Gritter	Ontario
A. Pontier	Kalamazoo	W. Kok	Chicago North
S. Vander Jagt		C. Boomsma	G. R. East
H. Guikema		P. Jonker	G. R. West
S. Terpstra	Minnesota	J. Cupido	Orange City
J. Van Ens	Minnesota	A. A. Koning	Ostfriesland
M. Zylstra		N. Jansen	Wisconsin
H. Botts	Muskegon	C. Vanden Heuvel	G. R. West
E. Jabaay		A. W. Hoogstrate	Holland
N. Vander Zee		J. H. Bruinooge	Zeeland
P. Zylstra			
W. Buursma	Ontario	P. Jonker	G. R. West
		L. Veltkamp	Muskegon
		J. H. Piersma	G. R. South
A. Verburg	Orange City	J. Vanden Hoek	Minnesota
		J. Geels	Pella
		B. J. Haan	Sioux Center
J. Hofman	Pacific	J. Hanenburg	Alberta
R. Tadema		E. Tanis	California
		A. A. Koning	Ostfriesland
R. Graves	Pella	S. P. Miersma	Ostfriesland

CANDIDATES	CLASSIS	EXAMINERS	CLASSIS
H. Hollander .....		E. F. Visser .....	Chicago South
		J. Cupido .....	Orange City
J. Elenbaas .....	Sioux Center .....	J. Vanden Hoek .....	Minnesota South
		J. Cupido .....	Orange City
		A. A. Koning .....	Ostfriesland
L. Bossenbroek .....	Sioux Center .....	A. A. Koning .....	Ostfriesland
H. DeGroot .....		J. Masselink .....	Orange City
J. Ribbens .....		J. Vanden Hoek .....	Minnesota South
P. Vander Weide ..			
P. Veenstra .....			
R. Opperwall .....	Wisconsin .....	P. Miersma .....	Ostfriesland
		J. Cupido .....	Orange City
		R. Veldman .....	Minnesota South
C. Schemper .....	Zeeland .....	C. Huissen .....	G. R. East
		O. Breen .....	Holland
		D. Drost .....	Muskegon

1. Your Committee recommends that Synod approve of their work.

2. We call Synod's attention to the fact that no report was sent in by the Synodical Examiners who attended the examination of Candidates A. Hannink and J. Vanden Hoek at Classis Ostfriesland. We recommend that Synod instruct the Stated Clerk to call the attention of these Synodical Examiners to their failure to fulfill the Synodical requirement that examiners report their action to Synod. *Adopted.*

#### B. *Belated Report on Examination of Candidates*

In compliance with the instructions of the Synod of 1952 (see Acts 1952, Art. 104, J, 2.) the Synodical Examiners who attended the examination of Candidates Willis De Boer and Willard Van Antwerpen by Classis Hudson (Rev. H. Bouma of Classis Hackensack, Rev. T. Yff of Classis Holland and Rev. P. Jonker of Classis Grand Rapids West) have sent their official report to this Synod, wherein they state that they have recommended to Classis Hudson that the above named Candidates be admitted to the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments.

Your Committee recommends that Synod approve of their work.

*Adopted.*

#### C. *Placement of Names of Ministers of other Denominations on Nominations.*

The following ministers of other denominations were placed on nomination by consistories with the approval of the Synodical Examiners:

MINISTER	DENOMINATION	CONSISTORY	EXAMINER	CLASSIS
Adema.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Mt. Hamilton.....	L. Van Laar.....	Ontario East
Meynen.....	Geref. Kerken.....		G. J. Vander Ziel.....	Chatham
			J. H. Piersma.....	G. R. South
E. C. Dykstra.....	R.C.A.....	Peoria.....	R. Veldman.....	Minnesota So.
			S. P. Miersma.....	Ostfriesland
			C. Huissen.....	Sioux Center
K. Hart.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Brampton.....	L. Veltkamp.....	Muskegon
J. Van Harmelen.....	Geref. Kerken.....		C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
			J. Ehlers.....	Kalamazoo
E. Heerema.....	O.P.C.....	Oakdale Park.....	J. H. Piersma.....	G. R. South
		Plymouth Hgts.....	C. Vanden Heuvel.....	G. R. West
			J. H. Bruinooge.....	Zeeland
		Alger Park.....	A. W. Hoogstrate.....	Holland
			C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
			P. Jonker.....	G. R. West
		Westwood.....	C. Vanden Heuvel.....	G. R. West
			C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
			J. H. Piersma.....	G. R. South
G. J. Hoytema.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Clinton-Exeter.....	C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
J. W. Jager*.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Brampton.....	N. Veltman.....	Hudson
			J. Ehlers.....	Kalamazoo
H. W. Kroeze.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Dixie.....	C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
			L. Veltkamp.....	Muskegon
			J. Ehlers.....	Kalamazoo
D. B. Muir.....	U.P.C.....	3rd Paterson (in be- half of Paterson Heb. Mission).....	J. Gritter.....	Ontario
			N. Veltman.....	Hudson
			J. Ehlers.....	Kalamazoo
B. Nederlof.....	Chr. Geref.....	Houston.....	R. H. Haan.....	Pacific
		Lethbridge.....	J. Vanden Hoek.....	Minn. South
			B. J. Haan.....	Sioux Center
H. Numan.....	Geref. Kerken.....	Wyoming.....	N. Veltman.....	Hudson
			C. Boomsma.....	G. R. East
			J. Ehlers.....	Kalamazoo
H. C. Van Deelen.....	R.C.A.....	Hull, Iowa.....	J. Vanden Hoek.....	Minnesota S.
			A. A. Koning.....	Ostfriesland
			J. Cupilo.....	Orange City

\*Note: The Examiners have informed Synod that at a later date the consistory received word that Rev. J. W. De Jager was no longer available.

*Recommendations:*

1. We recommend that Synod approve of the work of these Examiners, except in the case of Rev. E. Heerema being placed on the nomination of Alger Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan. *Synod acquiesces but does not approve.*

*Ground:*

There was no special need which justified this, since this was the first trio made by the consistory. *Adopted.*

D. The Classical Examiners of Classes Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids West, and Holland (Revs. C. Huissen, P. Jonker, and O. Breen) granted permission to the St. Catherines Church to place such Dutch ministers on their trio as would have the endorsement of the Contact Committee appointed by Classis Ontario for that purpose. *Synod acquiesces but does not approve.*

E. Belated Report on Placing the Name of a Minister of another Denomination.

The Acts of Synod 1952 (Art. 104, J, 1, p. 44) stated that no official report was received from the Examiners who approved placing the name of a R.C.A. minister on the trio of the Vancouver, B. C., Christian Reformed Church. Only one delegate reported in this instance, and he gave no grounds for his approbation.

These delegates (H. Kuiper, A. A. Koning, and E. Tanis) representing Classes Sioux Center, Ostfriesland and California respectively), have now complied with the requirement of Synod that Synodical Examiners send a report to Synod by sending their official report to the Stated Clerk.

Your Advisory Committee recommends that this be received as information. *Adopted.*

*F. "Colloquium Doctum" Examinations*

The following Synodical Examiners attended the Classical "Colloquium Doctum" examinations of ministers from other denominations who had accepted calls of our churches. In all cases the Examiners recommended that the Classes admit these brethren to the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.

MINISTER	DENOMINATION	CONSISTORY	EXAMINER	CLASSIS
J. Botting	Can. Presb.	Muskegon	C. Vanden Heuvel A. W. Hoogstrate J. H. Bruinooge	G. R. West Holland Zeeland
G. Bouma	Geref. Kerken	Ontario	D. J. Drost J. H. Piersma C. Boomsma	Muskegon G. R. South G. R. East
E. Heerema	O.P.C.	G. R. East	C. Vanden Heuvel J. H. Piersma J. H. Bruinooge	G. R. West G. R. South Zeeland
G. J. Hoytema H. Numan	Geref. Kerken	Ontario	F. W. Van Houten J. H. Piersma R. R. De Ridder	G. R. East G. R. South G. R. West
D. Muir	U.P.C.	Hackensack	L. Van Laar O. Holtrop C. Spoelhof	Ontario East Hudson Hamilton
B. Nederlof	Chr. Geref.	Alberta	J. Vanden Hoek	Minn. South
D. J. Scholten	Geref. Kerken		R. Haan C. Huissen	Pacific Sioux Center
G. H. Rientjes	R.C.A.	Pacific	J. Hanenburg E. Tanis A. A. Koning	Alberta California Ostfriesland
H. C. Van Deelen	R.C.A.	Sioux Center	J. Vanden Hoek J. Cupido A. A. Koning	Minn. South Orange City Ostfriesland
W. Van Dijk	Geref. Kerken	Hamilton	H. Moes G. J. Vander Ziel C. Boomsma	Ontario East Chatham G. R. East



Your Advisory Committee recommends that Synod approve of the work of the Synodical Examiners. *Adopted.*

*G. Special Cases to be Considered*

1. The Synodical Examiners (Revs. C. Vanden Heuvel, A. W. Hoogstrate, and J. H. Bruinooge) of Classes Grand Rapids West, Holland, and Zeeland respectively, report that they could not concur with the request of the First Grand Haven Church to place the name of a Presbyterian minister on its trio, since they felt that both the consistory and the minister did not meet with the requirements set by Synodical Rules covering such nominations.

Your Committee recommends that Synod concur with the action of the Synodical Examiners. *Adopted.*

2. The Synodical Examiners (Revs. C. Boomsma, J. H. Piersma, and E. Van Halsema) of Classis Grand Rapids East, Grand Rapids South, and Zeeland respectively, report that they could not concur with the request of the Broadway Ave. Consistory to place the name of a minister of the Reformed Church of America on a trio, since they did not feel free to advise them to do so at that time.

Your Committee recommends that Synod approve this action by the Synodical Examiners. *Adopted.*

3. The Synodical Examiners of the Classes Chicago South, Orange City, and Ostfriesland, by letter addressed to Synod by Rev. P. Holwerda, report that they could not concur with the request of the Consistory of First Denver to place the name of a minister of the Reformed Church of America on a trio, since in their opinion the Consistory did not present sufficient evidence that this was necessary, as required by the decision of Synod (Acts 1945, p. 86, 2).

Your Committee recommends that Synod approve of this action.

*Adopted.*

4. The Synodical Examiners (Revs. C. Boomsma, G. J. Vander Ziel, and A. Persenaire) of Classes Grand Rapids East, Chatham, and Hamilton report that they could not grant the request of the Bowmanville Consistory to place the name of a minister from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church on nomination, since the Consistory had not furnished sufficient reasons why this should be done.

Your Committee recommends that Synod approve of this action.

*Approved.*

5. The Synodical Examiners (Revs. B. J. Haan, J. Rubingh, and A. A. Koning) of Classes Sioux Center, Minnesota North, and Ostfriesland report that they could not grant the request of the Bethel Consistory of Edgerton, Minn., to place the name of a minister of the

Reformed Church of America on a trio, because the Consistory, in their opinion, had not satisfied them on the point of need.

Your Committee recommends that Synod approve of this action.

*Approved.*

6. The Consistory of the Alameda Church requested the Synodical Examiners of Classes Sioux Center, Minnesota South, and Pacific to give it permission to place the name of a minister of the Reformed Church of America on its trio. The Examiners did not agree in their reaction to this request. The first named was willing to grant the same in view of the exceptional need of this congregation; while the latter two refused to grant the request, since they were not satisfied on the matter of Alameda's need.

Your Committee recommends that Synod receive this as information and take no further action in this case.

*Grounds:*

a. The report of the Examiners is divided.

b. Alameda has now obtained a pastor. *Adopted.*

7. *Observations Re the Reports of the Synodical Examiners*

We call Synod's attention to a wide difference in interpretation as to the needs of a congregation, when ministers of other denominations are being considered. In one case the nomination of a certain minister received the approval of the Examiners, even though this church was about to extend its first call; while in another case the Examiners refused the request of a Consistory after that church already had extended 23 calls. This situation creates dissatisfaction in different parts of the Church. *Received as information.*

## VI. ADMITTING MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

### A. *Material:*

Overture No. 57.

### B. *Content:*

This overture is submitted by the Rev. A. A. Koning, Synodical Examiner of Classis Ostfriesland. The brother contends therein that there are several undesirable features about the present arrangement, adopted in 1943 and 1945, (Cf. Schaver's "Polity of the Churches, Vol. II, pp. 87-89), of admitting ministers from other denominations.

### C. *Recommendation:*

Your Committee recommends the appointment of a Committee to study this matter, and to advise the Synod of 1954.

*Grounds:*

1. The Rev. A. A. Koning adduces some materials which merit the appointment of a Study Committee. See Art. 164.

2. The difficulties which the Rev. Koning mentions have been shared by other Synodical Examiners. *Adopted.*

## VII. APPEAL OF THE HOLLAND MARSH CONSISTORY

A. *Materials:*

1. Report of the Synodical Examiners on Request of the Holland Marsh Consistory to place a minister of the Southern Presbyterian Church on its trio.
2. Appeal of the Holland Marsh Consistory.

B. *Contents:*

1. The Report of the Synodical Examiners reads as follows:

Synod of the Christian Reformed Church,  
Convening June 9, 1953.

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Synodical Examiners from Classis Hamilton, Chatham, and Grand Rapids East received a request from the Consistory of the Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church to place on trio the name of Rev. E. Hills, minister in the Southern Presbyterian Church.

The undersigned concurred in refusing the request for the following reasons:

1. The above named Consistory failed to show that this was an exceptional case.

2. We did not have sufficient information from the Consistory.

(Was signed)

A. Persenaire, Cl. Hamilton

G. J. Vander Ziel, Cl. Chatham

C. Boomsma, Cl. Grand Rapids East

2. The Appeal of the Holland Marsh Consistory reads as follows:

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church

to meet in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 9—

Esteemed Brethren:

We are herewith appealing the decision of the Synodical delegates not permitting us to put the name of the Rev. E. Hills on a trio. The Committee did not see fit to accept the recommendation of the Rev. R. B. Kuiper which we submitted. The only possible adverse point in this letter was that his delivery was not outstanding. We have heard him and believe that he is a minister that could serve our congregation well.

The second point that the Committee makes is that while we are now calling on all English sermons, it should be comparatively easy for us to secure a minister from our own church. However, there are still over a hundred vacancies in our churches. Less than 25 students will be available this summer. We have extended many calls without avail. Under these conditions we believe that we should be permitted to call a minister outside of our church, who is sound in doctrine and willing to submit to a colloquium doctum.

We sincerely hope that you will grant our appeal and permit us to put the name of Rev. E. Hills on a trio."

Yours fraternally,

(Was signed)

John Rupke, Vice-Pres.,

Jacob Vandergoot, Clerk.

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not sustain the appeal of the Holland Marsh Consistory.

*Grounds:*

1. The Consistory, in the opinion of the Examiners, gave no adequate reasons why its request should be granted:

a. The evidence was lacking that this was an exceptional case. For, although it is true that Holland Marsh had extended several calls, this was the first time that it was making a trio, after their decision to become an all English-speaking church.

b. The evidence given concerning the qualifications of the minister proposed was insufficient. In the letter of recommendation (?) the writer stated that he had not been intimately acquainted with this minister for a period of fifteen years. *Adopted.*

(Church Order Matters Continued in Art. 163).

## ARTICLE 128

Synod considers the report of the Advisory Committee on *Home Missions*, Cf. Arts. 68, 69, 76, 105, 125, Rev. J. De Kruyter reporting:

## I. BACK TO GOD HOUR

A. *Material:*

Agenda Report 14, 14-A. See Supplements 14, 14-A.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work of the committee and express its thanks to the retiring members: Revs. D. H. Walters and E. B. Pekelder, and Messrs. L. Bere and J. Van't Hof. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod authorize the continuation of the television experiment approved by the Synod of 1952.

*Grounds:*

a. Inability to carry out the experiment as proposed by the Synod of 1952 due to circumstantial reasons.

b. Availability of the funds for such further experimentation.

*Adopted.*

## II. RELATION OF BACK TO GOD COMMITTEE TO HOME MISSIONS AND PURPOSE OF RADIO HOUR

A. *Material:*

Overture 19.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod draw the attention of Classis Pacific to the statement of purpose which it adopted at its 1941 session. Sup. XV, pg. 282. "The aim should be to bring our distinctive truths to our American people in the light of our Reformed Confessions as they relate to the church, the home, the state, and society." *Adopted.*

2. In regard to the request for a statement of the relationship between the BGH and the Home Missions committee, we advise

a. That Synod draw Classis Pacific's attention to an unproven assumption — that there is overlapping. See Ground (b). Both our Home Missionary at Large and the Secretary of the BGH speak only of cooperation and harmony.

b. We understand that the specific problem in Classis Pacific's mind is the determination of the relation of church extension to evangelism. We therefore refer Classis Pacific to Synod's decision to refer this matter to the churches for study for a year.

c. That therefore no decision is necessary now. *Adopted.*

### III. APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF THE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN SURINAME.

a. *Materials:* Correspondence from the Lee Street Diaconate.

b. *Explanation:*

Miss A. Elzinga who is a member of our Edmonton church, a graduate of the R.B.I., and loaned as a missionary for the Moravian church through arrangements made by Dr. Beets, has accepted an appointment by two small Gereformeerde Kerken to start work in a new mission for the Indians. They are unable to finance this project, and thus Miss Elzinga wrote to the Lee St. Consistory for help. Their diaconate referred the matter to our South America and Ceylon Committee. They, in turn, have referred the matter to us without recommendation.

c. *Recommendation:*

1. That Synod take no action in this opportunity to begin missionary work in Suriname.

*Grounds:*

Our many present commitments and rapidly expanding program in South America and Ceylon. *Adopted.*

2. That it instruct its South America and Ceylon committee to make suitable reply to the diaconate of Lee St. *Adopted.*

### IV. CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION — HUISJEN

That Synod advise the Chicago Board to continue to supervise the work of Mr. Huisjen for another year.

*Ground:*

Synod's decision to postpone consideration of the place of Jewish Evangelism in our missions set-up until the churches have opportunity to study the matter. *Adopted.*

(Home Mission Matters Continued in Art. 157).

### ARTICLE 129

At the close of the afternoon session Elder R. Koning leads in prayer.

**FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 19**  
**Eighteenth Session**

ARTICLE 130

Synod sings No. 176: 1, 3, and Rev. E. Tanis leads in intercessory prayer:

ARTICLE 131

Dr. Henry Stob expresses by letter his very deep appreciation of the appointment tendered him, and accepts the appointment and thanks Synod for the confidence placed in him and asks for the prayers of the Church. The letter is received as information and the President expresses the joy of Synod over this letter.

ARTICLE 132

The *Obituary Committee*, by Rev. R. L. Veenstra, reports as follows:  
Esteemed Brethren:

During the year since Synod last met, the Lord has taken from our denomination five of its faithful ministers. Two of them were in the active ministry at the time of their death: two of them were retired ministers, and one of them an emeritus professor of our seminary. Three died after prolonged illness, during which they used their sickbeds as pulpits from which they testified to the goodness of God. One died in his sleep after a full day of Sunday service, and the fifth was killed on the highway, demonstrating the truth of the song,

Some through the deep water, some through the flood,  
Some through the fire, but all through the blood,  
God leads His dear children along.

*Rev. Peter Jonker* was born on November 5, 1887. He served six of our congregations, and gave many years of service to the South America Committee and the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions. All who knew him will testify to his kindness, humility, and Christian gentlemanliness. Brother Jonker was sixty-five at the time of his death on September 29, 1952.

*Rev. Gerrit Vande Riet*, whose son is a delegate to our present assembly, was born June 5, 1883. Like Rev. Jonker, he was self-effacing, tender, and beautiful in character. He served two of our churches, and is remembered for his charming articles on the Young People's Page in *The Banner*, as well as faithful work on the Board of Missions. He bore ill health with Christian patience, and passed away November 6, 1952.

*Rev. Sebastian Struyk* also endured a long illness and a series of operations before death came as a welcome release from excruciating pain. He was born September 19, 1885, entered the ministry after establishing a home and a business, and served our churches at Willard, Ohio, and Los Angeles, California. Following his retirement he was

helpful in many ways to vacant churches in the California area. He passed away November 22, 1952.

*Rev. Martin Huizenga and his wife* met death in an automobile accident in the spring of this year, February 21. He lacked nineteen days of reaching his fiftieth birthday, having been born March 12, 1903. Brother Huizenga ministered to five of our churches, and had the privilege of being the first pastor to our Cadillac, Michigan, congregation.

For almost the first time in forty years, Synod is convening without the presence of *Dr. Samuel Volbeda* as an advisory member. He was born on October 14, 1881, and became a professor of our seminary in 1914. He left an indelible impression on our denomination through his powerful preaching and the instruction in homiletics that he gave to the majority of our present ministers. While massive in mind, he had the heart of a child. His death occurred a month ago, May 16, 1953.

In the light of these losses, your committee advises Synod to pass the following resolutions:

1. We humbly thank God for having raised up these shepherds for His flock, and we bow before the Wisdom that deemed it best to take them from us when He did;

2. We join their sorrowing loved ones in praising God for His promises of a better Home and a fuller service for those who have been faithful even until death. To the bereaved we express our sincere sympathy, reminding them that we do not sorrow as those who have no hope;

3. We desire to give formal expression to our condolence by having these resolutions included in the 1953 Acts of Synod, and a copy of them forwarded to the relatives of our departed brothers.

Synod by rising endorses the sentiments expressed in these resolutions.

#### ARTICLE 133

The Report of the Advisory Committee on *Indian and Foreign Missions*, Cf. Arts. 95, 113, 118, Rev. G. J. Rozenboom reporting, is continued.

I. REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP. See Supplement No. 25.

##### A. Recommendation:

That the Synod grant permission to the Board of Missions to establish a special gift fund for the Reformation Translation Fellowship, and permit the sum of \$500.00 per year to be given to this fellowship if this amount is received.

##### Grounds:

1. Synod of 1952 requested the Board to give special attention to the request of the Reformation Translation Fellowship for listing on accredited causes.

2. Our Japan Missionaries recommend its support, and it will also be of service in work with the Chinese. (Formosa and New York).

3. Currently Prof. L. Berkhof's "Manual of Reformed Doctrine" is being translated. *Adopted.*

## II. INDONESIA.

### A. *Materials:*

Agenda Report No. 25. See Supplement No. 25.

### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod approve the advice of the Board of Missions with the grounds, viz.: "That for the present we discontinue further effort to secure missionaries to serve our Church in Indonesia."

#### *Grounds:*

- a. The appeal for expansion which we face in Nigeria.
- b. Our present limited manpower in missions.
- c. The heavy commitments we already have in our several other fields for foreign missions. *Adopted.*

2. "That Synod inform the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia that we very greatly appreciate their willingness to have us join in their work, that we appreciate too the great need for the gospel among the Indonesian people and the importance of missionary service in that part of the world, but we feel ourselves at the present unable to enter into the Indonesian area because of the expanding demands of our presently occupied and expanding fields." *Adopted.*

## III. SUDAN MISSION FIELD (General)

### A. *Materials:*

Agenda Report No. 25. See Supplement No. 25.

### B. *Observation:*

We call Synod's attention to the progress report on the Constitution of the Ekklesiya Christi Cikin Sudan, particularly that our Board of Missions is exercising a healthy influence upon the formulation of the proposed Constitution.

### C. *Recommendation:*

In view of the fact that a delegation from our Christian Reformed Church will be visiting the Sudan field within the next year, D. V., your committee recommends that Synod express its great joy in the report "that the work in Nigeria has continued with great blessings from the Lord", and "that we give God praise for the great blessing upon our mission work in Africa in that it has been crowned with the establishment of the native church". *Adopted.*

## IV. SUDAN MISSION FIELD (Medical)

### A. *Materials:*

Agenda Report 25-A. See Supplement 25-A.



B. *Comment:*

Dr. Roy Davis is already in Nigeria, and Dr. Joyce Branderhorst, (under appointment since the Synod of 1952) hopes to leave for the field during the course of this summer. Our work is therefore in process of expansion. This Synod is requested to complete present expansion so that in the large Sudan field with its thousands upon thousands of people in our area, the sufferings of men may be alleviated in Christ's Name, the proclamation of the Gospel may be aided, and resistance to the Gospel may be broken down.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. Lupwe Hospital. That Synod permit the erection of a \$100,000.00 30-40 bed hospital at Lupwe, of such nature as to agree wholly with point "f" of Mission Principles governing Medical work, viz.: "The scope of medical work must be governed by indigenous policies, that is, such as reckon with *native support and participation.*"

*Grounds:*

a. It is the belief of the Board and General Conference that this will greatly aid the Evangelistic work on the Sudan field.

b. There is dire need. At present there is a medical Dispensary at Lupwe with 4 Medical huts and 16 beds. Under this system there is some circumventing of the law, and in addition, very extensive repair is needed with respect to these existing facilities. *Adopted.*

2. That the Board of Missions be instructed to carry out this decision so that it will not curtail out-station work — in fact, that out-station work be increased in proportion to the increased medical facilities.

*Grounds:*

a. Out-station work has been exceptionally successful on the Sudan field.

b. This acts as a safeguard against undue centralization of the medical work in connection with the hospital. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod approve the request of the board, seeking permission from Synod to go to our churches for special gifts for the purpose, and that we build the hospital as income permits. *Adopted.*

4. That we approve of the Sudan Mission's request to seek government aid for this project. *Adopted.*

5. *Dr. Herman Gray.*

a. *Comment:*

We are happy to report that Dr. Herman Gray, a member of our Alameda Christian Reformed Church and a specialist in the field of leprosy, volunteered for missionary service to Nigeria. The board referred this matter for judgment to our Nigerian General Conference,

which in turn conferred with the Dutch Reformed Church Mission which also has a considerable work amongst lepers. The executive committee has already satisfied itself concerning the spiritual and doctrinal positions of Dr. Gray and heartily recommends him to Synod for missionary service under our board as outlined by the Nigerian General Conference:

b. *Recommendations:*

1. That Dr. Herman Gray be appointed as a leprosy medical doctor to work in the Benue Province in consultation and cooperation with the Dutch Reformed Church Mission. That besides supervising leprosy work in our Nigerian mission field, he also be seconded to the Dutch Reformed Church Mission central leprosy settlement at Mkar.

*Grounds:*

a. This presents Synod with an unusual opportunity which should not be easily passed by. Dr. Gray is an unusually capable doctor, in the field of leprosy, and is so recognized even by our government. At the same time, he is a deeply spiritual man and has offered himself for service on the Nigerian field.

b. His services can be put to excellent use on this extensive field. Not only are there hundreds of thousands of people in our area, but there is a very high concentration of lepers there also. *Adopted.*

2. That as Mkar settlement has all the needed facilities, he be stationed at that post. *Adopted.*

3. That steps be taken to obtain the funds for a residence for him from the government. There is every reason to believe that these funds from the government will be forthcoming after April 1, 1954. In the meantime the Board will loan the sum of \$2800.00 for this purpose. Mr. M. P. Loedolff O.B.E., General Administrator of the Settlement, is agreeable to arrange for the building of the residence as soon as funds are on hand. *Adopted.*

4. That while it is understood that Dr. Gray is on loan to the Dutch Reformed Church Mission for such work as shall be mutually arranged with the medical leprosy staff, his salary and furlough travel expenses will be paid by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

Note: Dr. Gray shall be provided with a car since he is likely to have frequent and extensive journeys. Attempts will be made to obtain a car from the government, but should they fail, the Board will provide a suitable vehicle. The expenses for journeys are usually paid from government or Native Administration funds.

Efforts will be made to secure a supporting church for Dr. Gray.

*Adopted.*

## V. MISSION PRINCIPLES APPLICATION TO HOME MISSIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD EVANGELISM

A. *Materials*: Overture No. 55.

B. *Recommendation*:

1. That Synod do not at this time make a declaration in re the applicability of Mission Principles and Evangelism to the fields of Home Missions and Neighborhood Evangelism.

*Grounds*:

a. At present a Synodical Study Committee is studying the matter of policies for Neighborhood Evangelism.

b. The Mission Principles referred to were drawn up specifically for indigenous missions on heathen fields. *Adopted*.

2. That Synod do not at present appoint a special committee to make a separate study of the applicability of the principles to Home Missions and N. Evangelism, but rather ask our church editors, our leaders in the fields of Home Missions and Neighborhood Evangelism, as well as our missionaries and evangelists on the various fields, to write regularly on this matter.

*Grounds*:

a. Time should be given for expression of thought from several quarters before such a matter as this becomes formulated for a Synodical Report.

b. A Study Committee. By appointing a study committee, Synod may tend to remove the discussion of the problem from the church at large for a year or two, whereas some writing on the matter by those directly concerned lends to crystalization of thought concerning the matter within the Church. *Adopted*.

3. Synod declares this to be its answer to Overture 55. *Adopted*.

## VI. REHOBOTH BUILDINGS

A. *Material*:

Agenda Report No. 25-A. See Supplement No. 25-A.

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod grant permission to erect a house at Rehoboth for a married man and family at a cost of \$11,750.00. *Adopted*.

2. That Synod permit the alteration of the "Stone House" at a cost of \$1,750.00.

*Ground*:

Present personnel commitments make additional housing mandatory. *Adopted*.

3. That Synod grant permission to proceed with necessary alterations to the Rehoboth Hospital to bring it up to state requirements, at a cost of \$25,000.00, in consultation with Dr. Louis Bos and the Indian General Conference.

*Ground:*

This is a basic need to keep the Rehoboth hospital in operation. The Synod of 1951 already approved \$15,000.00 for this cause. An additional \$10,000.00 is requested from the special gifts budget. *Adopted.*

4. Synod approves the request of the Board seeking permission also in this matter to go to our churches for special gifts for this purpose.

## ARTICLE 134

Synod considers the report of the Advisory Committee on *Publication Matters*, Cf. Art. 57, Rev. J. Petersen reporting:

## I. SUSPENSION OF CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

A. *Material*: Overture No. 7.

B. *Content*: Classis Sioux Center protests against the suspension of the publication of the *Banner* and the *Wachter* for two weeks during the summer months.

*Recommendations:*

Upon inquiring we have learned that it is virtually impossible during the two week vacation of the employees to publish our papers. The staff is too small to permit staggering of vacations, and substitute help is not procurable. However, when larger facilities are obtained, it is reasonably sure that a full year schedule of issues will be possible.

Synod declares this to be its answer to Overture No. 7. *Adopted.*

## II. SYNODICAL AGENDA

A. *Material*: Overture No. 60.

B. *Content*: The Third Christian Reformed Church of Roseland protests the late arrival of the Synodical agenda.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. Much of the material for the Agenda is received after the deadline set by Synod: March 15.

2. The first copies of the Agenda were published by April 20, according to Synodical rule.

3. It requires much time for packing and mailing these Agendas.

4. If the proposed plans for a new printing establishment and other facilities materialize, we are assured that the publication of the Agenda will be materially hastened. *Adopted.*

(Report of Committee Publication Matters Continued in Art. 151).

## ARTICLE 135

Synod considers the Report on *Educational Matters II*, Cf. Arts. 14, 25, 90, Rev. L. Veltkamp reporting.

## I. PROPOSED CATECHISM CURRICULUM

A. *Material*:

Agenda Report No. 33. See Supplement No. 33. Overture No. 62

B. *Considerations:*

1. Your committee feels after surveying this prospectus of a Catechism curriculum that valuable and substantial progress has been made in this direction. A serious, and in many respects, a successful attempt has been made to correct the criticisms of last year's Synod against the curriculum then proposed. The study evidences, likewise, a thorough effort to grasp and meet the problems and needs of a sound catechism program, both from the point of view of content and also methodology and pedagogical requirement. The mind of the church was sought through questionnaires submitted to all ministers and consistories and the replies were incorporated in the total study so that the Study Committee feels that this proposed plan reflects the thinking of the whole church on this important program.

2. Your advisory committee feels, however, that in spite of its many favorable qualities the Plan as proposed has serious defects and we would lay the following strictures on it:

a. The time span of the total catechism program is too long, ranging from age 8 to 19, making the completion of the program compulsory even though confession of faith has been made.

b. The course on the Christian Reformed Church (age 12) is assigned at too early an age.

c. The treatment of the Compendium is not intensive enough, nor sufficiently repetitious to make for thorough learning.

1) E.g., the first cycle of the Compendium covers three years which means that one third of the Compendium is to be covered by a 12 year old in an eight or nine month course which makes for exceedingly technical and detailed treatment at such a young age.

2) This Plan provides for only two trips through the Compendium.

d. This Plan does not include any systematic course in Christian Doctrine.

e. The Catechism season as required by the Plan proposed is too long. Synod refers these strictures to the Standing Committee on Education.

3. Your committee would also suggest the following commendable features:

a. The excellent description of courses presented with their suggested helps and pedagogical aids.

b. Integration of the program with the courses in the Christian School.

c. The selection of material and courses of study. We feel that substantially the courses selected are basic to good catechesis.

4. In view of the foregoing your committee, though favorable to the general lines of the Proposed Plan, feels that the curriculum as it stands is not satisfactory and proposes the following modified plan:

- I. Elementary Bible Doctrine — Ages 8 and 9.
- II. Introduction to the Compendium — Ages 10 and 11. Compendium — Age 11.
- III. Compendium — Ages 12 and 13.
- IV. Systematic Christian Doctrine — Ages 14 and 15.
- V. The Christian Reformed Church — Ages 16 and 17. Advanced Compendium — Ages 16 and 17. (alternated).
- VI. God's Covenant With Man — Ages 18 and 19. Belgic Confession and Canons of Dordt (optional).

C. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod express its appreciation to the Study Committee for its diligent labors. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod approve the Proposed Plan in its modified form above.  
*Grounds:*

a. This proposed curriculum executes the decisions of Synods 1946 (Acts 91-92), 1947 (Acts 56-57), 1951 (Acts 57, 364).

b. This curriculum gives more adequate treatment of the Compendium thus reflecting the opinion of our ministers and consistories as expressed in the questionnaire.

c. This curriculum provides a balanced approach to our Reformed Truth combining the experiential (in the Compendium) with the systematic. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod empower the Committee on Education to provide for and supervise the preparation of a set of catechism textbooks which will embody the foregoing curriculum along the lines of the pedagogical principles expressed in the original report of the Committee. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod enable the Committee on Education to proceed immediately with the preparation of textbooks for this curriculum by means of the following steps:

a. Setting aside the sum of \$3000.00 for the coming year to be used by the Committee on Education in beginning the work of having these textbooks prepared, this sum to be paid from the Synodical Treasury.

b. Requesting the Committee on Education to present to the Synod of 1954 a detailed budget of the outlay of funds needed to set up the entire proposed curriculum.

c. Instructing the Committee on Education to submit samples of its work to the Synod of 1954.

*Ground:*

Action on this problem is long overdue. *Adopted.*

D. *Proposed Auxiliary Curriculum*

1. *Material:*

Agenda Report 33. See Supplement No. 33.

2. *Recommendation:*

Your committee recommends that Synod postpone action on this Curriculum and refer it to the custody of the Committee on Education for possible modification and later presentation.

*Grounds:*

- a. Action on the Auxiliary Curriculum must await the acceptance and reception of the first.
- b. The need for this type of curriculum is not pressing. *Adopted.*

II. SUNDAY SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

A. *Material:*

Agenda Report No. 33. See Supplement No. 33.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod authorize a semi-graded system of lessons, along the lines suggested by the Synod of 1952, that is, graded lessons in which unity can be retained by having the same general subjects but with different Scripture passages whenever necessary; and further, that at least three different pupil papers with suitable teacher's guide be published to cover the various departments.

*Grounds:*

- a. This will accomplish the purpose of graded lessons in avoiding either undue repetition of simple stories for the older classes or unduly difficult lessons for the younger classes.
- b. This will permit the continuation of Sunday School teachers' meetings as they are ordinarily conducted among us.
- c. This will be no more costly than the present system of two different lesson series for covenantal and mission Sunday Schools respectively, with two distinct pupil papers for each. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod create a new standing committee of five members, to be known as the Sunday School Committee, including in its membership, among others, a qualified educator, a member of the Publication Committee, and a member of the Committee on Education. The task of this Committee will be:

- a. To supervise the preparation of all denominational Sunday School materials, including the appointment of all writers except the editor-in-chief, who is to be synodically elected.
- b. To create the new single series of Sunday School materials ordered by Synod of 1952, including the proposed semi-graded lessons specified above, the pedagogical aids as suggested in the report of the Committee on Education last year, and to inaugurate this new series in January, 1954.
- c. To carry out "lesson planning" as one of its functions, thus terminating the work of both the "Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee" and the "Mission Sunday School Lesson Planning Com-

mittee." It should be understood that the new Sunday School Committee will thus have authority to revise the schedule of lessons already adopted by Synod, at its discretion, for the period after January 1, 1954.

d. To work in consultation with Publication Committee in respect to publication and distribution of materials, and with the Committee on Education in respect to the function of the Sunday School as related to other educational agencies.

*Grounds:*

a. Such a special committee is needed to develop properly the Sunday School materials already authorized, and to provide the denominational leadership which a successful Sunday School system requires.

b. The establishment of such a committee will eliminate the need for a special lesson planning committee. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod retain the present editor-in-chief, the Reverend John Schaal, for at least one year.

*Ground:* In this time of transition it is very important that the work be conducted by an editor who has had maximum experience. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod grant the request of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for cooperation in the publication of our Sunday School materials, (Acts, 1951, pp. 51-52) by inviting the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to have two of its representatives meet with the Sunday School Committee (proposed above under "2") in a consultative capacity.

*Grounds:*

a. The theological outlook of the two denominations concerned is the same. We can cooperate in bearing our Reformed witness.

b. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church has already used our Sunday School materials for some years by adding its own supplementary pedagogical aids for evangelistic purposes. Through consultation the experience of our Orthodox Presbyterian brethren with the evangelistic Sunday School can be used for the common good and the new Sunday School materials can be so designed that they will properly serve the needs of both.

c. By such cooperation the financial resources of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for Sunday School materials can be used to supplement our own. *Adopted.*

5. Synod approve the work of the Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee and of the Mission Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee. *Adopted.*

(Report on Educational Matters II Continued in Art. 162).

ARTICLE 136

The Rev. C. O. Buus reporting for the Sermon Critics presents the following:



1. We recommend that sermons be prepared for Synod with a view to candidacy no later than May 1, so as not to interfere with final examinations in the Seminary. *Adopted.*

2. We recommend that sermons prepared for Synod with a view to candidacy be accompanied with a complete outline. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 137

At 11 P.M. Rev. J. Bult closes this session with prayer.

### SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 20 Nineteenth Session

#### ARTICLE 138

After the singing of Psalter Hymnal No. 311, Rev. R. L. Veenstra leads in prayer.

#### ARTICLE 139

Roll Call is held. Elders M. Kulikamp, F. Wierenga and H. Sall are absent. Elder H. Petroelje is present in the place of Elder G. Veenboer, and expresses his agreement with the forms of unity.

#### ARTICLE 140

The minutes of the Friday sessions are read and approved.

#### ARTICLE 141

The following protest is read:

"The undersigned feels compelled to protest the decision of this Synod recorded in Art. 113, D, 4, of the Acts of 1953, and worded thus:

"That education on the Mission Field be limited to a literacy program in keeping with the performance of the evangelistic task — viz. the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel, and the encouragement of native covenantal schools."

My reasons are these:

1. This decision fails to face the fundamental issues involved in both the majority and minority reports, and thus does justice neither to the one nor to the other report, and gives no answer to the big question before the Church: Is it proper and profitable for the Church to use schools as an aid to evangelization?

2. The formulation of this decision is not sufficiently definite: it wants to limit education in a mission field to a literacy program, yet by the phrase 'as much as possible' it leaves the door wide open to far more than a literacy program.

3. It puts the workers in our educational program on the New Mexico Indian Field in a very discouraging position: it makes them feel that the educational program in which they are engaged is not in line with

Reformed Mission Policy and not in line with the fundamental policy of our Church. True, the educational program is continued by Synod, but only by way of exception. This will be a great handicap to the educational staff on our Indian Mission Field."

(Signed) John Gritter

#### ARTICLE 142

The Stated Clerk is instructed to write to the three ministers who assisted in the Chair of Dogmatics in the Seminary the past school year, namely, Rev. J. Bratt, Dr. J. Hoogstra, and Dr. Wm. Masselink, thanking them in the name of Synod for the services rendered.

#### ARTICLE 143

Dr. Wm. Spoelhof, President of Calvin College, thanks Synod for the reappointment tendered him and announces his acceptance. He earnestly solicits our personal and congregational prayers for the Faculty and the administration of the College. The Chair assures him that his work thus far has been gratefully received both by the Synod and by the whole Church.

#### ARTICLE 144

The Stated Clerk is instructed to write the Rev. Peter Vos that until his case is settled he is limited in his ministerial labors to his congregation, and that he can thus not serve as synodical examiner.

#### ARTICLE 145

The Stated Clerk requests permission of Synod to merge the synodical treasury and the treasury of the Ecumenical Synod, since this will facilitate bookkeeping. Synod grants this request.

#### ARTICLE 146

Synod considers the report on *Varia*, Cf. Arts. 84, 97, 126, Rev. B. J. Haan reporting:

##### I. CHRISTIAN LABOR POLICY

##### A. *Materials:*

1. Labor Policy Committee, Agenda Report No. 26, See Supplement No. 26.
2. Overture 25 (Classis Chatham).
3. Overture 47 (Classis Hamilton).
4. Communication from Mr. Joseph Gritter (member of Boston Square Christian Reformed Church). See Supplement No. 26-A.

##### B. *Analysis of the Materials:*

1. The Labor Policy Committee was appointed by the Synod of 1952 "to give careful study to, and make recommendations concerning the Labor Policy Problem which the Church has encountered in awarding contracts for denominational projects."

This committee gives a majority and minority report on the matter. The majority submits a plan which is intended to resolve the problem without compromising our stand on the labor question. The minority recommends that Synod completely ignore its present position maintaining that the church "should refrain from stipulating a procedure that makes distinctions in labor union affiliations based on the mode of membership organization."

2. The Overtures of Classes Chatham and Hamilton present a detailed list of resolutions recommended to the Synod for adoption which shall direct the churches as they face the labor situation.

3. Communication of Mr. Joseph Gritter, member of the Boston Square Christian Reformed Church, in which the brother requests Synod to reaffirm its decision of 1943, 1945, and 1946 concerning membership in neutral organizations and suggests additional explication of these decisions.

C. Consideration of the Problems Raised by the Several Overtures and by the Committee re Labor Policy.

Your advisory committee believes that all the material with its many considerations can be subsumed under three questions with their proper answers:

1. What are to be the declarations of Synod as to the principles which are to guide the Christian laborer in his labor relationships?

2. What is to be Synod's answer to all the present involvements of our people in the neutral unions?

3. What is to be Synod's policy regarding the specific problem of awarding contracts to build denominational buildings to those who are bound by the closed-shop policy in the employment of workers?

D. *Recommendations:*

1. In reply to the question, What are to be the declarations of Synod as to the principles which are to guide the Christian laborer in his labor relationships, the following be adopted. (See Art. 156).

During the discussion Rev. W. Van Rees is recognized to defend the majority position of the Study Committee on Labor Policy and Mr. C. Van Valkenburg to defend the minority position.

Since the advice of the advisory committee is contrary to that of the minority of the Study Committee, the report of the minority is first taken up. Mr. Van Valkenburg elucidates his minority report. A motion is made and supported to adopt the advice of the minority:

"That Synod should refrain from making a directive to the Board regarding the right or wrong method of economic organization in employer-employee relations as a part of the contract involved in building projects, and should refrain from stipulating a procedure that

makes distinctions in labor union affiliations based on the mode of membership organization." *This motion is tabled.*

A motion is made and supported to adopt the first recommendation of the advisory committee:

a. That Synod reaffirm the position of the Church expressed in 1943, 1945, 1946.

These decisions are read. While the recommendation is under discussion the time to recess arrives, and discussion continued in Art. 156. (Varia Matters Continued in Art. 156).

#### ARTICLE 147

Synod recesses till 10 A.M., Monday, and Elder A. Sluis leads in prayer.

### MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 22 Twentieth Session

#### ARTICLE 148

Psalter Hymnal No. 50 is sung, after which Rev. C. O. Buus leads in prayer.

#### ARTICLE 149

Roll Call is held. Absent are Elders H. Wierenga, A. Sluis, J. Kamp, C. De Jager, A. Geurkink, and Rev. H. Bossenbroek. Elder Kruick has gone home. Rev. J. Putt replaces R. Veenstra, Dr. E. Masselink replaces Rev. De Ridder, Rev. E. J. Tanis replaces Rev. C. De Haan, Elder Prof. T. Dirkse replaces Elder Kulikamp, Elder J. Hulst replaces Elder T. Hoeksema, Elder J. Tysman replaces Elder J. Ellens. These new delegates all express their agreement with the Forms of Unity.

#### ARTICLE 150

The minutes of the Saturday session are read and approved.

#### ARTICLE 151

Synod considers the report of the Advisory Committee, *Publication Matters*, Cf. Arts. 57, 134, Rev. J. Petersen reporting:

##### I. COMMUNICATION OF DR. P. BERKHOUT

###### A. *Material*:

1. Letter to Synod from Dr. P. Berkhout.
2. Letter to Synod from Rev. H. J. Kuiper. See Art. 34.

B. *Recommendation*: Since this matter properly belongs to the domain of the Publication Committee Synod so inform Dr. Berkhout.  
*Adopted.*

##### II. CREATION AND EVOLUTION

###### A. *Material*:

1. Agenda Report No. 5. See Supplement No. 5.

2. Communication No. 2. Dissent from recommendation of study committee from Dr. E. Y. Monsma. See-Supplement No. 5-A.

B. *History*: A committee was appointed by the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod (1946) to serve the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod (1949) with advice regarding the problem of "Creation and Evolution". Three guiding principles were adopted by the latter Synod. (See Agenda Report No. 5 p. 21). That Synod asked our Christian Reformed Synod to study the principles. The study committee advises Synod to accept the principles. Dr. E. Y. Monsma has addressed a communication to Synod urging Synod not to concur.

C. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod give the privilege of the floor to Dr. J. De Vries to defend the stand of the Study Committee, if he so desires, and to Dr. E. Y. Monsma to defend his communication, if he so desires.

2. That Synod concur in the decisions adopted by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 re "Creation and Evolution."

*Grounds*:

a. It is the desire of the Ecumenical Synod to receive an expression of our denomination re these decisions.

b. These three principles embody the basic Scriptural and creedal principles which our Church has always confessed.

Dr. E. Y. Monsma elucidates his objections to the adoption of the three principles in question. See Supplement No. 5-A.

Dr. P. J. Coetzee, fraternal delegate from the Gereformeerde Kerk of South Africa states his views on the matter.

*The recommendation is rejected.*

A motion to receive the decisions of the Ecumenical Synod as information is tabled.

The committee recommends the following:

1. That Synod appreciates in the statements submitted by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod on the subject of "Creation and Evolution" the maintenance of the Bible as the infallible Word of God, and the historicity of the Biblical account of creation. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod expresses its dissatisfaction with the second and third guiding principles in their present form because they do not distinguish with sufficient clarity between the Reformed position on the one hand and the positions of so-called theistic evolution and the dialectic theology on the other hand. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod suggests to the Reformed Ecumenical Synod that the whole matter be studied anew. *Adopted.*

4. Synod thanks the study committee for the work they have done.

*Adopted.*

## ARTICLE 152

Synod adjourns and Prof. R. B. Kuiper leads in prayer.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 22****Twenty-First Session**

## ARTICLE 153

Synod sings No. 177 and Rev. W. Van Rees voices our petitions to God.

## ARTICLE 154

Dr. Ralph Stob reads his letter to Synod in which he accepts the appointment tendered him, as an urgent call from God. He dedicates himself fully to the task which lies ahead in the Seminary, trusting that God Who has called Him will also give what is necessary to perform the task. He bespeaks from the delegates earnest and continual prayers for himself and the whole Faculty that they may unitedly accomplish the task set before them. The Chair expresses our satisfaction over his acceptance and wishes him God's blessing upon his new labors.

## ARTICLE 155

Dr. G. Heyns points out that Rev. C. Kromminga was elected with the thought of a year's study before he takes up his work, but that no provision has been made for the necessary finances. This is referred to the Executive Committee of the Board for proper adjustment. See Art. 110.

## ARTICLE 156

Synod considers the report of Advisory Committee *Varia*, on *Labor Matters*, Cf. Arts. 84, 97, 146, Rev. B. J. Haan reporting.

The Advisory Committee recommends:

1. In reply to the question, "What are to be the declarations of Synod as to the principles which are to guide the Christian laborer in his labor relationship?" the following be adopted:

a. That Synod reaffirm the position of the church expressed in 1943, 1945, and 1946.

b. That Synod also declare that authoritative information regarding the constitution and policies, pertaining to several or all of the below mentioned items, of the leading neutral labor organizations of our country, as e.g. the C.I.O. and the A.F.L., requires Christian disapproval of these organizations.

1. The taking of an oath or pledge that the member place his loyalty to the organization above all other affiliations.

2. Outright refusal to be bound by the Word of God when a contemplated or taken action is clearly in violation of it.

3. Desecration of the Christian Sabbath by holding meetings or allowing unnecessary work on that day.

4. Refusal to allow employment of conscientious objectors who cannot with a clear conscience before God join the organization.

5. The use of intimidation, coercion and other forms of persecution to compel workers to join.

6. The use of the boycott or other interferences to compel an employer to recognize an organization that does not — according to the laws governing such matters — represent his employees.

7. The use of the strike weapon in violation of law, or when its use endangers life and the public welfare.

8. The use of or assenting to the use of violence in labor disputes.

*Ground:* All such practices are clear violations of God's law.

c. That Synod declare that the Principles of Christian Labor be thoroughly promulgated by means of the preaching of God's Word, instruction in the Catechism classes, family visiting, church societies, and the Christian Press in order that they may increasingly be translated into action by our people.

2. In reply to the question, "What is to be Synod's answer to all the present involvements of our people in the neutral unions?" the following be adopted:

a. That Synod recognize the difficulty of several of our constituency who, though realizing the evil character of the neutral labor organizations, due to the press of economic and other considerations find it for the present extremely difficult to extricate themselves from it.

b. That Synod humbly acknowledge that it faces problems in the economic pattern of our age bearing upon relationship in the neutral organizations which finds no easy solution, and that it recognizes the possibility that our present labor unions might be only a temporary nature in the history of American economics.

c. That Synod, none-the-less, declare that the principles of God's Word respecting labor relations must be maintained and that in our present circumstances this can be done only by opposing the neutral unions of our day and supporting the Christian Labor Association.

d. That Synod submit as policy that the cause of the C.L.A. be pursued among our constituents along the same lines of procedure as witnessed in the growth of our Christian School movement, namely, that though in some areas, some for a longer period of time than others, the Christian School faced difficulties in the path of its realization, yet the church unrelentingly, though patiently and charitably, pressed the cause of Christian education with amazing success.

e. That Synod declare that specific offenses be dealt with in a dis-

ciplinary manner by the local consistories agreeable to the character and circumstances of the offense.

3. In reply to the question, What is to be Synod's policy regarding the specific problem of awarding contracts, to build denominational buildings, to those who are bound by the closed-shop policy in the employment of workers, your advisory committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations of the majority committee on Labor Policy.

4. *Our Recommendations.*

Synod should adopt the following recommendations as offering the most equitable solution to the Problem which the denominational Board has encountered in its construction reports.

a. Synod adheres to the decision of 1950. Art. 85, 4. 'Synod decides that in awarding eventual future contracts for construction projects, the Board of Trustees and other denominational Boards, shall exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with so-called Neutral Unions.'

*Grounds:*

(1) Synod should lend support to the Christian Conscience which it has cultivated by means of its own pronouncements and instructions. It should do this in places where it has immediate jurisdiction.

(2) Synod should sustain its own pronouncements re the need of fostering Christian Organizations, if they are to become truly effective.

b. Synod decides upon the following procedure to effectively safeguard the rights of its people on its own building projects:

(1) The denominational Boards shall ask for bids from qualified and reliable contractors, with the understanding expressly stated in the conditions of the contract that:

No contractor or subcontractor shall be prevented from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any labor organization.

No individual shall be excluded from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any Union.

*Ground:*

Synod should not allow any organization, which refuses to recognize the Christian convictions of its membership re labor organizations, to impose its will upon our people in positions where Synod has the authority and the power to prevent it.

Past experience teaches that such an instruction is necessary to make the decision (under "a" above) effective.

(2) In the event that no bids are received on this basis (pt. 1) or the bids received are exorbitant Synod grants the Boards the right to erect buildings on a non-competitive basis under proper supervision.



(3) If the above procedure (2) in the judgment of the Board, is inadvisable, it shall present the matter with its recommendations to the following Synod.

*Ground:*

There must be protection against exorbitant bidding as well as against discrimination against conscientious objectors.

c. Synod decides that only in such places where the above-mentioned procedure cannot be followed a Board is permitted to follow another labor policy. In such cases it should be made clear to the Church at large that there is no other alternative."

*Ground:* If our labor principles cannot be maintained in the erection of our denominational buildings, it is practically useless to advocate adherence to these principles among our people generally.

The motion to adopt recommendation 1. a is tabled. (See p. 125)

The following motions are made:

1. That recommendations 1 and 2 of the advisory committee given above and all the material on which the advice of that committee was based be referred to all the consistories for study and reaction, in the light of "neutral" union constitutions, membership pledges, etc. as these pertain to their respective localities. *Adopted.*

2. That a Study Committee be appointed to place this matter on the table of every consistory in the Christian Reformed Church, obtain their reactions, evaluate these, and report to the Synod of 1954. See Art. 164. *Adopted.*

3. That recommendation 3 of the advisory committee be held in abeyance until this study has been completed, and that meanwhile the Board of Trustees and other denominational boards abide by the decision of the Synod of 1950 re Labor Policy. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod declare this to be its answer to the overtures of Classes Hamilton and Chatham and the communication of Mr. Joseph Gritter. See Supplement 26-A. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 157

Synod considers the report on *Home Missions*, Cf. Arts 68, 69, 76, 105, 125, 128, Rev. J. De Kruyter reporting:

##### I. GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS

###### A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Reports 21 and 21-A. See Supplements 21, 21-A.
2. Overture 5.

###### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work of the committee. *Adopted.*
2. That Synod adopt the following proposals with reference to church extension in the United States:

a. That Synod instruct its Home Missions Committee to take steps toward the placement of a missionary at *Philadelphia, Pa.*

1) The field is now under the care of Missionary P. Holtrop who is at too great a distance to do good work and is unduly busy with its added responsibility.

2) The request of the active membership for such a placement, and its endorsement by both the Eastern Home Missions Board and the General Committee on Home Missions.

3) The development of the field is contingent upon the placement of a missionary. *Adopted.*

b. That Synod instruct its Home Missions Committee to take steps to man the field at *Columbus, Ohio.*

1) The encouraging reports of the Rev. H. Dekker, Student Vander Wal, and Missionary Aardsma, who was loaned to the station by the four Roseland Churches for the past three months.

2) The strategic nature of the area — a university town.

3) The presence of an energetic nucleus of our people.

4) The recommendation of the General Home Missions Committee for such manning. *Adopted.*

c. That Synod authorize its Home Missions Committee to find ways and means for placing a missionary in *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

1) The presence of a nucleus to spear-head evangelical work.

2) The promising response of the area to our Back to God Hour.

3) The recommendation of the General Committee for Home Missions. *Adopted.*

d. That Synod accede to the recommendation of its General Committee for Home Missions, that *Rochester, N. Y.* be given aid to the extent of \$2000.00 per annum to carry out its local evangelism program.

1) The great potential of the field: Rochester a city of 400,000; the need of further expansion of the successful community evangelism program; the great zeal of the membership of the church.

2) The need for financial support.

a) Rochester, a church of 70 families, is supporting a Christian school; is in debt with its new church building.

b) Synod has provided that such help may be given if the Home Missions Committee investigate, approve the grant, and bring said proposition to Synod for approval. Acts 1951, pg. 25, Art. 61, II, B, 5, b.

c) Both the Eastern Home Missions Committee and the General Committee endorse this request.

3) The avowed intent of the Congregation to take over the work when it is able. *Adopted.*

3. That Synod authorize the General Home Missions Committee to call *missionaries for Canada* according to need.

*Grounds:*

a. The presence of requests for the placement of four additional missionaries in the field.

b. It is expected that the Maritimes will soon need a worker.

c. The expected immigrant influx during 1953. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod adopt the following proposals with reference to the *Fund for Needy Churches*. See Supplement No. 21.

a. That the minimum salary to be paid the ministers by the respective churches receiving aid from the Fund be set at \$3300.00 in the United States and \$3600.00 in Canada for 1954. This is a raise of \$300.00.

*Grounds:*

The increased cost of living. *Adopted.*

b. That mileage on the field be granted subsidized Churches for payment to their pastors over and above the first 5000 miles at the following rates: United States, 5 cents per mile; Eastern Canada, 6 cents per mile; Western Canada, 7 cents per mile. *Adopted.*

c. That Synod recommend that the Canadian Congregations pay the first 5000 miles for their pastors.

*Grounds:*

1) Some were called on a complete mileage proviso.

2) This would help to encourage ministers going to the Canadian field. *Adopted.*

d. That Synod declare points b and c to be its answer to Overture 5, together with the added observation that it has raised the salaries of its ministers in subsidized churches \$300.00 for 1954, Canadian men receiving \$300.00 more than men in the States. *Adopted.*

e. That a children's allowance in the United States of \$125.00 per child be granted for 1954; a similar amount to be paid in Canada, inclusive of the government child allowance if and when paid. Observation: This is the rule now in operation. *Adopted.*

f. That the minimum per family contribution toward the pastor's salary of families belonging to subsidized churches be set at \$60.00 in the United States; and at \$35.00 in Canada.

*Grounds:*

If the salary of the missionary is raised, the congregation ought to share its part of the burden. *Adopted.*

g. Synod decides that *Arlene* is to receive no aid from F.N.C.

*Grounds:*

1) The Arlene Church is declining in membership and does not

show promise of growth in the foreseeable future. It now has 12 families.

2) If the request for subsidy is granted, the Arlene congregation will receive \$185.85 per family for its twelve families.

3) If the Arlene congregation is taken out of the calling church category, classical supplies and student pastor services need not necessarily be discontinued.

4) The Arlene Congregation can well worship in other of our neighboring churches. *Adopted.*

h. That Synod reinstate the former rule of the F.N.C. — that churches receiving assistance from this source be expected to loan their pastors for service in Home Mission fields, and that such pastors if and when needed, be expected to give one week's service (including Sunday) for each \$200.00 salary assistance received.

*Grounds:*

1) The reinstatement of this rule will enable General Committee for Home Missions to procure interim and urgently needed manpower.

2) The reinstatement of this rule will be an incentive for churches receiving assistance from the F.N.C. to assure larger salary responsibilities. *Adopted.*

## II. THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

### A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Reports 24, 24-A, and 43. See Supplements No. 24, 24-A, 43.

2. Overtures 44, 49, and 50 — proposing or approving new plans of organization.

### B. *Observations concerning the need for reorganization. Overture 49.*

1. Conditions have radically changed since the work was begun.

a. Formerly we were able to place many through the contacts we had in the Netherlands. We now are limited to those processed by our immigration officials. They must be strategically placed.

b. In the beginning we had but 14 churches in Canada. Now we have 90 churches and 4 Classes. The organization ought to be closely knit to our churches that their welfare be prompted.

2. The loose connection between the Canadian churches and this work.

a. At present the work is directed by a committee of men who are appointed by Synod. This committee meets but twice a year. The only direct connection between them and the churches is through Synod.

b. This committee determines which churches are strengthened, where new churches shall be placed, etc. It leads, the churches follow.

c. It is obvious that it would be to the advantage of all if a more direct connection were established between the churches and this work.

3. The rapid growth in Ontario demands more representation on the Committee. At the beginning Ontario had but four of the fourteen churches. It now has more than half of the total.

4. Reorganization is also necessary in order that the work of the fieldmen may be better regulated. They report only to the committee which meets but twice a year.

C. *Observations concerning the plans proposed.*

1. *Classis Hamilton. See Overture 49.*

a. It proportionally enlarges the committee, giving each classis a member.

b. It provides for local committees who shall supervise the fieldmen in their district.

Stricture: This plan results in dual-control of the work of the fieldmen. They would be responsible both to the General Committee and to their local committee. This would make for impossible situations.

2. *Immigration Council of Ontario. See Supplement No. 43.*

a. It proposes a committee composed of four members to be chosen by the Council in Ontario, three from Western Canada, one to be appointed by each of the Canadian Classes, and the MAL.

b. The fieldmen would be under the supervision of the members of the committee in their part of Canada.

Strictures:

1. Such a committee would be cumbersome — 12 members.

2. It is questionable whether we are prepared for such a radical proposal. The committee would be composed mostly of men from the local immigration societies. The fieldmen would be supervised by them.

3. It doesn't adhere to the principle it advances, that immigration work should be the task of the church as organism.

3. *Eastern Ontario.*

a. It proportionally enlarges the committee, giving each classis a member.

b. It provides for regional committees. The General Committee shall be divided into an Eastern and Western branch.

Stricture: It accentuates a bit of rift which has manifested itself between these two areas.

4. *Canadian Immigration Committee.*

a. It proportionally enlarges the committee, giving each classis a member.

## b. Stricture:

It makes no provision for relating the work of the fieldmen to their local classes.

D. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod acknowledge the work of its Committee on Immigration. *Adopted.*

2. That the Canadian Immigration Committee be continued for one year and reorganized so that the Classes concerned are equally represented.

*Ground:* This will establish direct connection between the Classes and the work. *Adopted.*

3. To expedite the matter Synod appoint, besides the MAL the following:

Classis Ontario East — Mr. J. Vander Vliet

Classis Alberta — Rev. P. J. Hoekstra

Classis Minnesota South — Rev. A. Disselkoen

Classis Pacific — Mr. J. Vander Velden

Classes Chatham, Hamilton, and Minnesota North each elect a member at their next meeting.

Henceforth each Classis shall nominate a representative on the Committee for Synod to approve. *Adopted.*

4. That Synod require that the fieldmen report their activity to each classical meeting as well as to the General Committee.

a. More direct communication would be established between the Classes and the fieldmen.

b. This would enable each classis to register its reaction to the work of the fieldmen with the General Committee.

*Note:* It should be understood that the fieldmen are responsible to the General Committee though they report to Classis. *Adopted.*

5. That Synod reappoint all full-time fieldmen as recommended by the Committee. *Adopted.*

6. That Synod appoint Mr. T. Polet full-time fieldman for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. *Adopted.*

7. That Synod take note of the letter of thanks sent to us by the Synod of the "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland". *Adopted.*

8. That Synod approve the appointment of Mr. A. de Jonge as full-time fieldman for the Montreal area. *Adopted.*

### III. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE DEPUTIES OF THE DUTCH MERCHANT MARINE OF THE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN THE NETHERLANDS.

A. *Material:*

1. Letter from the Deputies of the Dutch Merchant Marine.
2. Report of the Conference of the Rev. H. Baker with this organization in the Netherlands.
3. Rev. H. Baker's report as fraternal delegate. See Supplement No. 48.
4. Acts of Synod, 1952, page 51.

B. *Analysis of the problem.*

1. Some of the decisions of the Synod of 1952 reflected a misunderstanding of the request of the Deputies of the Dutch Merchant Marine.

a. Their purpose was to stimulate the interest of our church in the spiritual work among seamen in the various ports of our country. In addition to this they desired our moral support of their work at New Orleans.

b. Their request was interpreted by Synod's Advisory Committee on Home Missions as a desire for financial aid in their work at New Orleans and elsewhere and a relevant response was thus made. See Acts 1952, pg. 51.

2. The Rev. H. Baker directed the attention of Synod to this misunderstanding.

a. His conference with the Deputies in the Netherlands had clearly revealed this.

b. Therefore he requested the Synod to consider this matter in order that this misunderstanding might be removed.

C. *Our Recommendations:*

1. That Synod express its regret for this misunderstanding. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod declare that it does not see its way clear to inaugurate an extensive program of work among the Dutch Merchant Marine at this time due to the many other commitments which have already been made. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 158

Synod considers the report on *Budget Matters*, Cf. Art. 96, Elder G. Kamp reporting:

##### I. WHAT CONSTITUTES A FAMILY?

###### A. *Material:*

*Agenda Report No. 7.* This report is the answer to the Study Committee appointed by the Synod of 1952 to the overture of Classis Hackensack, requesting Synod to clarify the decision of the Synod of 1928, re the question: "What Constitutes a Family?" Cf. Schaver's Church Polity, Page 113. See Supplement No. 7.

###### B. *Recommendation:*

Your committee recommends that Synod adopt the following:

1. Though we agree most heartily with the overture that "there should be uniformity of practice among our churches with respect to these matters, since our denominational quotas are established on the basis of this count", your committee recommends that Synod answer Classis Hackensack that the existing rules are sufficiently clear, and there is no present need for changing these regulations. *Adopted.*

2. In view of a possible lack of uniformity in "understanding or practice," your committee recommends that Synod include an auxiliary question in the rules for Church Visiting, in part I under question 16, to read: "Have you counted the number of your families according to the present Synodical rules, as found in the Church Order?"

3. That this be Synod's answer to Classis Hackensack. *Adopted.*

*Ground:*

Matters of this nature should make reference to specific cases.

*Adopted.*

4. Synod thanks the study committee for its work. *Adopted.*

## II. COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO SYNOD FROM THE CONSISTORY OF THE WEST CLEVELAND CHURCH.

### A. *Material:*

Letter states that Synod's definition of what constitutes a family works a hardship on the "outpost" churches of the denomination, particularly those which are aggressive in home evangelization, as these churches usually have a large number of mixed marriages.

Several specific cases are presented that are counted as families, and assessed accordingly, but which by virtue of their character are more like individuals than families. Therefore the consistory feels that some change should be made. They suggest a) to consider a family as described in Schaver under Item 1 — "wherein both husband and wife are confessing members.", b) to revise item 2 which reads "wherein husband or wife by confession of faith belongs to the congregation" to include one or more baptized or communicant children. Cf. Schaver's Church Polity — Page 113.

### B. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not express itself on the matter presented in the letter.

### *Grounds:*

1. There is no definite request.
2. The interpretation of "What constitutes a Family?" is sufficiently clear.
3. The difficulties presented can be settled in a minor assembly.

*Adopted.*

## III. FIDELITY BONDS

### A. *Material:*

Fidelity bonds covering treasurers of the Boards and Organizations



as requested by Synod, 1952. (Acts 1952, Art. 189V). The following found to be in good order:

1. Publication Committee of the Christian Reformed Church.

This corporation carries a Primary Commercial Blanket Bond in the amount of \$10,000.00 covering all of its employees. The Bond is continuous in form.

2. Back to God Hour.

The treasurer of this organization, Mr. Lambert Bere, is bonded in the amount of \$25,000.00. The Bond is continuous in form.

3. Christian Reformed Board of Missions, Inc.

This organization carries a Commercial Blanket Bond in the amount of \$20,000.00 covering all of its employees. The Bond is continuous in form.

4. Ministers' Pension and Relief Administration.

The treasurer of this organization, Mr. Fred L. Winter, is bonded in the amount of \$25,000.00. This organization also carries a bond in the amount of \$2,000.00 on its bookkeeper, Mrs. Alida Sovacool. These are also continuous in form.

5. Jewish Mission Board — Paterson, N. J.

There is a bond issued on behalf of Mr. Albert De Vries, treasurer, in favor of the Paterson Hebrew Mission of the Christian Reformed Church in the amount of \$5,000.00 dated April 16, 1952, and covers a term of three years.

B. *Recommendations:*

That the above Fidelity Bonds be continued in force.

*Grounds:*

1. They are in effect and in proper form.
2. They are written by reliable Casualty and Surety Companies.

*Adopted.*

IV. FIDELITY BONDS NEEDING REVISION

A. *Material:*

1. Chicago Jewish Mission.

The retiring treasurer of this organization, Mr. George Ottenhoff, is bonded in the amount of \$5,000.00.

2. Committee of Synod of the Christian Reformed Church for South America.

The treasurer of this organization, Mr. John De Haan, is bonded in the amount of \$2,000.00.

3. Church Help Fund.

The treasurer of this organization, Mr. Charles R. Mulder, is bonded in the amount of \$20,000.00.

B. *Recommendations:*

That these bonds be revised in the following manner:

## 1. Chicago Jewish Mission.

This bond should be cancelled on the retiring treasurer, and a new bond written to cover the *new* treasurer. *Adopted.*

## 2. Committee of Synod of the Christian Reformed Church for South America.

We believe the word "mission" should be inserted after South America on this bond. Also this bond should be increased to \$10,000.00

*Adopted.*

## 3. Church Help Fund.

This bond was originally in the amount of \$5,000.00 and on February 25, 1948, it was increased \$17,000.00 making a total of \$20,000.00. The endorsement asking the increase states that the original amount was \$3,000.00 before increase. There is definitely an error in this endorsement. Furthermore, this bond was made out to the Christian Reformed Church of North America which is incorrect. This bond should be made out to the Church Help Fund, Inc., as the Church Help Fund is a corporate body. This bond should be cancelled and rewritten in proper form. *Adopted.*

4. We recommend that if any of these organizations have five or more employees handling cash or other tangible property, such organizations carry a Primary Commercial Blanket Bond. This type of bond is automatic in form and covers all employees regardless of changes in employment. *Adopted.*

5. We recommend that the auditors auditing the books and financial records of these organizations be required to examine the bonds each year and include a report on the bond in their auditing report. We believe these bonds should be in the possession of the respective boards as in almost every case they are corporate entities and should have these documents in their possession, rather than the Stated Clerk of Synod. *Adopted.*

6. Inquiry has been made concerning the practicability of one blanket comprehensive bond for all denominational officers and employees. Since such a bond would have to be made payable to a corporate body and the Christian Reformed church or denomination is not incorporated as such, we believe such a bond cannot be obtained. *Adopted.*

## V. CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS

A. *Materials:* Budget Requests for 1954.

1. Agenda report No. 25, 25-A. See Supplements 25, 25-A.
2. Auditors report dated December 31, 1952;

B. *Recommendation:*

That the Operational Budget of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for the year 1954 in the amount of \$717,574.65 be adopted

and that the quota for this cause be increased from \$12.35 to \$15.00 per family for 1954.

*Ground:*

Based on the previous commitments of Synod and of prior Synods we believe this total appropriation is necessary and in order. Further: that it is not possible to reduce the same without curtailment of programs that have been adopted by Synod. *Adopted.*

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE YEAR 1953 (*Operational*). See Supplement 25-A.

Your Committee recommends that the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$21,366.00 be authorized for 1953.

*Ground:*

Study of the material submitted to your committee convinces us that this supplemental appropriation for 1953 is necessary and in order.

*Adopted.*

VII. SPECIAL GIFTS BUDGET FOR 1953 (*Supplemental*). See Supplement 25-A.

Your Committee recommends that the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$36,715.00 from Special Gifts Funds be allowed for 1953.

*Ground:*

Study of the material submitted to your Committee convinces us that these proposed expenditures are justified for the various fields. *Adopted.*

VIII. SPECIAL GIFTS BUDGET FOR 1954

Your Committee recommends that the Special Gifts Budget as submitted in the amount of \$74,569.20 be adopted.

*Ground:*

Study of the material submitted to your committee relative to the various needs leads us to believe that these expenditures are warranted for the proper operation, maintenance, and expansion of the Mission task. *Adopted.*

IX. RECOMMENDATION

Your Committee would submit that in its humble opinion our Missions Board should be instructed to prepare a reasonably complete, concise, and simply formulated report of the financial operations as pertaining to their mandate, for distribution to its constituency. Information on the various fields could be incorporated into this booklet.

*Ground:*

The Budgetary structure is quite complicated. Large sums of money are expended and must be raised. Our membership is entitled to this information. It would lead to more intelligent consideration and could be used to engender further love for Mission work. *Adopted.*



C. *Recommendation:*

That the quota for the Canadian Emergency Fund be increased from \$4.50 to \$5.25 per family.

*Ground:*

This increase will enable the committee to meet its proposed budget and reduce the present deficit. *Adopted.*

## XIII. FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

A. *Material:*

1. Agenda Report No. 21. See Supplement No. 21-V.
2. Financial Report for 1952.
3. Recommendation of Special Advisory Budget Committee.
4. Complete listing of churches receiving aid from this fund in 1952.

B. *Observation:*

Balance on hand January 1, 1952 .....	\$ 33,683.61
Receipts during 1952 .....	66,873.57
	100,357.17
Disbursements during 1952 .....	107,137.56
	6,780.38
Deficit January 1, 1953 .....	\$ 6,780.38

C. *Recommendation:*

That the quota for this fund be increased from \$2.80 to \$3.45 per family, for the year 1954.

*Grounds:*

1. Salary subsidies, children's allowances, moving expenses, etc., have increased approximately 20% during the year 1952.
2. This will eliminate the existing deficit. *Adopted.*

## XIV. CHICAGO JEWISH AND PATERSON HEBREW MISSIONS

A. *Materials:*

1. Report No. 6 of Chicago Jewish Mission. See Supplement No. 6.
2. Report No. 2 of Paterson Hebrew Mission. See Supplement No. 7.

B. *Recommendations:*

1. Your committee recommends a quota of \$.60 per family for 1954 for the Chicago Jewish Mission.

*Grounds:*

- a. This amount will be sufficient in view of the favorable condition of the finances resulting from the sale of the Jansma estate.
- b. This amount is also recommended by the special advisory budget committee. *Adopted.*

2. Your committee recommends a quota of \$.35 per family for the year of 1954 for the Paterson Hebrew Mission.

*Grounds:*

- a. This amount will meet the needs of the budget.
- b. The assets of the Paterson Hebrew Mission warrant this. *Adopted.*

XV. The committee recommends that re Mrs. D. H. Kromminga and the emeritus professors the same rule shall apply for the next year as adopted by the Synod of 1952 (Cf. Acts 1952, Art. 140, page 71).

This matter is referred to the Board of Finance to present to the Board of Trustees a recommendation for final adjustment. *Adopted.*

#### XVI. STUDENT FELLOWSHIP FUND FOR STUDENTS

##### A. *Material:*

Overture No. 39.

##### B. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod establish a "Student Fund" to assist needy students who wish to train at Calvin Seminary for ministerial or missionary work in Canada.

*Ground:* Your Committee refers Synod to the grounds of the Overture No. 39. *Adopted.*

2. Your Committee suggests that this fund be established by requesting each of the 24 Classes to contribute at least \$100 from the Student Fund annually, and by appealing to our constituency for special gifts for this purpose.

##### *Grounds:*

a. Several Student Fund committees have substantial balance on hand.  
b. This will give each Classical Student Fund committee the opportunity of helping needy students as they prepare for the ministry.

*Adopted.*

3. That Synod appoint a committee to set up the necessary regulations governing the conditions for application, the screening of applicants, the amount each student shall receive, etc., immediately.

*Ground:* The immediate need in Canada is very great. See Art. 164 for Committee. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 159

Synod adjourns and Elder E. Heerema leads in closing prayer.

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### MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 22

#### Twenty-Second Session

#### ARTICLE 160

Psalter Hymnal No. 369 is sung and Rev. G. Vande Riet leads in prayer.

Rev. B. Pekelder is present instead of Rev. C. O. Buus and expresses his agreement with the Forms of Unity.

#### ARTICLE 161

Synod considers the report on *Protests and Appeals*, Cf. Arts. 78, 81, Rev. C. Boomsma reporting:

## I. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE NYENBRINK CASE

A. *Material:*

The report of the special committee appointed by a previous Synod to investigate the Nyenbrink Case.

B. *Contents:*

The committee reports:

1. The satisfactory conclusion of the Nyenbrink Case, agreeable to all parties concerned, has been effected.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Nyenbrink have been reinstated as members of the Christian Reformed Church.

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod receive this information with gratitude to God and thank the committee for its work. *Adopted.*

## II. APPEAL OF MR. JAN ENSERINK VS. THE SYNOD OF 1952

A. *Material:*

Two letters of Mr. Jan Enserink of Ripon, California.

B. *Contents:*

Mr. Enserink asks Synod to explain and reconcile the grounds that Synod of 1952 adduced in support of its decision not to sustain his protest against the Rev. H. J. Kuiper for refusing to place Mr. Enserink's contribution to "Voices" in *The Banner*.

C. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not accede to the request of Mr. Enserink.

*Grounds:*

1. Mr. Enserink does not demonstrate the need for such clarification and reconciliation of the grounds in the decision of the Synod of 1952.

2. Synod sees no difficulty or ambiguity in the decision of 1952.

*Adopted.*

## III. PROTEST OF MR. HENRY J. BLACQUIERE VS. PRESIDENT SPOELHOF

A. *Material:* A letter of Mr. Henry J. Blacquiere.

B. *Contents:* Mr. Blacquiere takes exception to a statement made by President Spoelhof in a speech before Queen Juliana in 1952.

C. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod declare the letter of Mr. Blacquiere not legally before Synod because Mr. Blacquiere is not a member of a Christian Reformed Church. *Adopted.*

2. That because of the wide publicity given to this letter Synod declare that Mr. Blacquiere obviously misunderstood President Spoelhof.

*Adopted.*

## IV. APPEAL OF MR. WILLIAM NYENHUIS VS. CONSISTORY OF THE ZUTPHEN CHURCH AND CLASSIS ZEELAND.

A. *Materials:*

1. Protest of Mr. Wm. Nyenhuis to the Synod of 1953.
2. History of the Wm. Nyenhuis Case prepared by the Consistory of the Zutphen Church.
3. Answer of the Zutphen Consistory to the appeal of Wm. Nyenhuis.
4. Letter of Classis Zeeland.

B. *History:*

An altercation arose between Mr. Nyenhuis and a fellow-member of the Zutphen Church in the early part of 1950. The matter came to the consistory and some time later a reconciliation was reached, but immediately afterwards Mr. Nyenhuis objected to the announcement of the reconciliation made to the congregation and informed the consistory that he would not consider the case settled. The consistory, therefore, in Dec. of 1950, placed Mr. Nyenhuis under censure for insubordination to the consistory and a refusal to heed the admonition of the consistory. In Sept. of 1951 the consistory brought the case to Classis Zeeland. The Classis appointed a committee to work on the problem *in loco*, but the committee was unsuccessful in its efforts to reconcile Mr. Nyenhuis with his consistory, so that Classis at its May meeting in 1952 advised the consistory to proceed with discipline "especially because of the manifest unspiritual attitude of the brother."

About this time the Rev. J. Breuker became pastor of the congregation and was given an opportunity by the consistory to work with the brother for a time. By the spring of 1953 when the attitude of Mr. Nyenhuis was still unchanged, the consistory prepared to excommunicate Mr. Nyenhuis. This action has been halted by Mr. Nyenhuis' appeal to Synod.

C. *Analysis:*

1. The consistory of Zutphen is disciplining Mr. Nyenhuis for insubordination to the consistory, for an unspiritual attitude revealed in various ways, and for an unforgiving attitude towards others.
2. Mr. Nyenhuis maintains his innocence and accuses the consistory of partiality and prejudice.

D. *Recommendations:*

1. That Synod do not sustain the appeal of Mr. Nyenhuis.

*Grounds:*

- a. The consistory has proceeded faithfully in an orderly fashion and with patience.
  - b. There is no evidence that the consistory's attitude towards Mr. Nyenhuis has been partial or prejudicial. *Adopted.*
2. That Synod admonish Mr. Nyenhuis to be reconciled with the church. *Adopted.*

Note: The delegates of Classis Zeeland did not vote on this matter.



## V. PROTEST OF MR. S. WOLTERS VS. THE SYNOD OF 1950.

A. *Materials*: Letter of Mr. Wolters to Synod of 1953.B. *Content*:

Mr. Wolters protests the decision of the Synod of 1950 which was not to accede to the request that Synod investigate the causes of the schism in the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands and judge on the basis of Scripture and Confession with which church we should have correspondence and which group should be called to repentance.

Mr. Wolters in his letter criticizes the grounds adduced by Synod in support of its decisions.

C. *Recommendation*:

Your committee recommends that Synod do not sustain the protest of Mr. Wolters against the 1950 decision of Synod.

*Ground*: Mr. Wolters has not adduced either Scriptural or Confessional grounds to substantiate his position that the Synod of 1950 erred in its decision. *Adopted*.

## ARTICLE 162

Synod considers the report on *Educational Matters*, cf. Arts. 14, 25, 90, 135, II. Rev. L. Veltkamp reporting:

## I. OVERTURES

A. Re Examination of College professors receiving appointments of indefinite tenure.

1. *Material*: Overture No. 242. *Observations*:

In order to understand the mind of Classis Pacific behind this overture your committee consulted with one of its delegates to have him articulate that mind since the committee felt that proper examinations of these appointees are being conducted by the Board in every case, not only before the appointment for indefinite tenure, but before every appointment and reappointment. We are satisfied that this overture in no way is intended to be a criticism against the Board for any failure on its part to properly conduct these examinations but that Classis Pacific is particularly concerned that a thorough examination be given these appointees to our College in knowledge of and devotion to Reformed doctrine.

3. *Recommendations*:

a. That Synod while recognizing Classis Pacific's concern for the doctrinal soundness of the college faculty, does not accede to the request of this overture for a synodical examination of professors who are appointed for an indefinite tenure.

*Ground*: The Board, to our knowledge, is executing in a satisfactory way these examinations of appointees before each reappointment.

*Adopted*.

b. That synod re-emphasize to the present examining agencies the importance of stressing the knowledge of and devotion to our Reformed doctrines in the examination of every appointee to the faculty. *Adopted.*

B. *Board's Report in the Agenda.*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 22

2. *Recommendation:* Synod answer the Classis that the Board is adhering to the rule to the best of its ability. *Adopted.*

C. *Seminarian Internship*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 63

2. *Observations:*

Though your committee is sympathetic to the spirit of the overture that a committee be appointed to study the matter of internship of seminary students, yet we feel that such a study should not be limited to the relation of such internship to the scope of Home Missions, but to the broader terms of Internship as it applies to the all around needs of the student and his future service in the church.

3. *Recommendations:*

1. Synod instruct the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Faculty to study the matter of one year's internship for seminary students.

*Ground:* The issue is of sufficient importance to warrant such a study. *Adopted.*

2. That such a study include the broad scope of internship as it applies not only to Home Missions, but to all the needs of the student as they relate to his service in the Church. *Adopted.*

D. *Separation of Calvin College from Ecclesiastical Control.*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 23

2. *Recommendation:*

We recommend that Synod do not accede to this overture.

*Grounds:* 1. Our church and its people are not ready for such drastic action at this time.

2. Past Synods have time and again faced this issue and upheld the present arrangement maintaining the right of the Church to maintain a College. (cf. Agenda 1926) (adopted by Synod 1926), p. 30, which summarizes all previous decisions from 1896-1924 on this issue. See Acts 1934, Art. 64 VI. These grounds expressed by past synods have not been invalidated. *Adopted.*

E. *Study Committee Concerning Separation of Calvin College from the Church.*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 56

2. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not accede to the request of this overture.

*Grounds:* 1. We question the validity of the premise in the overture that the Church can maintain a college only in an emergency, since past Synods have repeatedly asserted that the church has the right to maintain a college. Cf. Acts 1912, p. 30, Acts 1934, p. 71, Acts 1926, p. 30.

2. This issue has been under study by several past Synods and in each case rejected for sound reasons.

3. In the light of the foregoing the present amount of sentiment and demand for this separation does not warrant a new study at this time. *Adopted.*

*F. Junior Colleges and Reduction of Calvin College and Seminary Quotas.*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 31

2. *Recommendation:*

That Synod do not accede to this request.

*Grounds:* 1. As long as Calvin College and Seminary remain the property of the denomination, every church in the denomination is obliged to pay its proportionate part of its maintenance. This policy has been established by preceding synods. Acts 1924, Art. 30 VII, Acts 1934, Art. 64 VI.

2. Permitting Classis Sioux Center (and conceivably other Classes later) to hold back a percentage of the quota would only result in the raising of the quotas of the remaining churches. *Tabled.*

This matter is referred to the Board of Trustees for study to report to the Synod of 1954.

*G. Statement of Philosophy of Education.*

1. *Material:* Overture No. 16

2. *Considerations:*

a. If merely a brief statement of principles is desired by Classis Pacific, such can be found in scattered references, cf. especially the voluntary declarations of the faculty of Calvin College — Acts 1952 Supplement 29a, pp. 449-451.

b. At present the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary have already embarked on such an enterprise under the terms of an initial grant of \$5000.00 made available by the Calvin Foundation (cf. Agenda Supplementary Report 12-A, p. 6). See Supplement 12-A.

3. *Recommendations:*

a. That Synod declare that the request of Classis Pacific is being realized at present in the study being undertaken by the Board and Faculties of College and Seminary to produce an elaborate and thorough statement of Christian Philosophy of Education. *Adopted.*

b. That Synod do not designate a terminal date for the completion of this statement.

*Ground:* The magnitude of the task makes this impossible. *Adopted.*

## II. PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 41. See Supplement No. 41

2. *Observations*:

a. The mandate of this committee was to study the "Principles of Christian Education" as set forth by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 and to present the results of their study to the churches. Acts of Synod 1951, Art. 92, p. 44.

b. A provisional recommendation was also adopted at the Synod of 1951 as follows: "In the event an adopting decision is required we recommend that the Principles of Education (of the Ecumenical Synod) . . . be referred to a study committee for further study before adoption, since such weighty matters should not be adopted as the official position of the church without careful study."

c. Because of this indefinite mandate the Study Committee apparently was not too sure where it was going under this assignment. As a result the report under consideration is vague in its intent and inadequate in its analysis. It presents merely a breakdown or reshuffling of the material of the Ecumenical Synod's Report but no evaluation or critique.

d. We have learned from the Study Committee that they interpreted their mandate to be merely to reformulate, rearrange and simplify this report of the Ecumenical Synod and thus make it more presentable to our people.

e. Your committee, however, feels that more is required by this mandate, viz., that adoption of this report by Synod requires analysis, critique by the Study Committee. As an illustration we note the inadequate treatment of the Covenantal principle in this report of the Ecumenical Synod.

3. *Recommendations*:

a. That Synod refer this statement of Principles of Christian Education to a Study Committee for critical analysis and explanation:

1/ The mandate expressed by this report seems to be indefinite.

2/ The statement of 'Principles' here given does not present an adequate, clear-cut expression of defense and explication.

3/ The original Synodical mandate is subject to misinterpretation.

4/ Such a matter as "principles of Christian Education" is of such tremendous importance for ourselves and for our sister churches in the Netherlands and South Africa as to warrant more critical and considerate study. *Adopted*.

b. That Synod clarify the mandate of 1951 as follows:

The Committee should give a critical analysis of the principles of Education submitted by the Ecumenical Synod of 1949, that is, analyze, evaluate, if necessary reformulate, the principles with a view toward adoption of other appropriate action by Synod. *Adopted*.

## ARTICLE 163

Synod considers the report on *Church Order*, cf. Arts. 40, 52, 82, 104, 127, Rev. A. Persenaire reporting:

## I. REVISION OF THE FORM FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. *Material*: Agenda Report No. 30. See Supplement No. 30

B. *Recommendations*:

1. That Synod postpone action on this Report in order to give the churches more time to study the things proposed therein.

*Grounds*:

a. The Consistories and churches have not had sufficient time to study this Report, due to the late appearance of the Agenda.

b. Matters as weighty as the proposals made by the Study Committee should not be adopted hastily. *Adopted.*

2. That the proposed recommendations of the Study Committee, together with the decision made by this Synod, be published in the Church papers, so that the attention of the churches may be called to this matter. *Adopted.*

3. Synod instruct the Study Committee to solicit the comments of the consistories on their report, and review their report in the light of these comments, and to report to the Synod of 1954. *Adopted.*

## II. PRAEPARATOIR EXAMINATIONS OF SEMINARY STUDENTS.

A. *Materials*: Overtures No. 11 and No. 38

*Overture 11.*

B. *Recommendation*: That we do not move in the direction proposed by the overture No. 11 of Classis Hamilton.

*Grounds*:

a. The present method of Synod conducting these examinations provides for a wider acquaintance with the Canadians, in view of the fact that there are four members of each Classis at Synod and only one on the Board. Moreover, the Board has already examined these men several times.

b. The examination, as it was carried on by the Synod this year did not consume too much time, and yet was rather thorough.

c. Elders should have the opportunity to attend these examinations. This the synodical examinations make possible. *Adopted.*

B. That Synod do not adopt the overture of Classis Alberta, No. 38.

*Grounds*:

1. The present method of Synod conducting these examinations provides for a wider acquaintance with the Candidates, than examinations conducted by various Classes.

2. The carrying out of the proposal of the overture is impracticable, in view of the distances from these Classes and the differences in the time of their meetings. *Adopted.*

### III. MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES FOR ABSENTEE MEMBERS.

#### A. *Material*: Overture No. 36

#### B. *Recommendations*:

##### 1. That Synod adopt this overture in the following form:

Classis Alberta overtures Synod to recommend to the consistories the use of a membership certificate for members who are traveling or residing elsewhere temporarily, similar to those used by the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands for this purpose. These certificates would be valid for six months and require endorsement by the consistories regarding such matters as attendance at the Lord's Supper, family visiting, church attendance, catechism attendance, and conduct in general.

#### *Grounds*:

1) With modern easy transportation more and more people are traveling. Such a certificate would make it easier for them to obtain admission to the communion of other congregations, and also enable the home church to exercise a measure of supervision over its membership.

2) Our Canadian churches have difficulty with many of their young people who drift about working away from home, but do not establish residence elsewhere permanently. *Adopted.*

2. That Synod instruct the Publication Committee to make these certificates available to the churches.

### IV. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OF CALVIN COLLEGE OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS.

#### A. *Material*:

##### 1. Overture No. 52.

##### 2. Agenda Report No. 12-A. See Supplement 12-A.

#### D. *Elucidation*:

The Synod of 1949 decided (Art. 114, B, 2) the following: "Synod instruct the authorities of Calvin College and Seminary to include in the information in their catalogue, that students attending Calvin College and Seminary, who are too far from home to attend services there, are expected to transfer their membership to a local church of their own choice. Grounds:

1. This will aid in securing proper consistorial supervision of our young people studying at Calvin.

2. This will guard the sanctity of the Holy Sacraments.

3. This is in agreement with the synodical decision of 1867 relative to the partaking of communion by a member in another congregation."

The overture wishes to alter this rule adopted in 1949 by adding the following amendment, "or that said students may retain their membership with their home church, but place themselves under the

temporary spiritual care of one of our Grand Rapids churches." The overture also includes some suggested "Student Certificates" for those students who wish to place themselves under the temporary care of a church in the Grand Rapids area.

*C. Recommendations:*

1. That Synod adopt the overture and the suggested "Student Certificates." If this be done the Rule would read as follows:

"Synod instructs the authorities of Calvin College and Seminary to include in the information in their catalogue, that students attending Calvin College and Seminary, who are too far from home to attend services there, are expected to transfer their membership to a local church of their own choice; or that said students may retain their membership with their home church, but place themselves under the temporary care of one of our Grand Rapids churches."

*Grounds:*

a. The Board of Trustees states in its Report that the Rule of 1949 has not been generally complied with.

b. "It does not seem wise to compel students who are absent from home on a temporary basis as students, and who return home from time to time, to leave their home church, if they prefer to retain their relationship with their home church." *Adopted.*

2. The Committee advises that Synod recommend to the authorities of Calvin College and Seminary to issue such "Student Certificates" and to inform each applicant for admission, living outside the Grand Rapids area, that there are two Synodically approved methods of dealing with their church membership, while they are at Calvin. They may 1) affiliate with a church in the Grand Rapids area, or 2) retain their membership in the home church, while placing themselves under the care of a consistory in the Grand Rapids area. The former is preferable. But, in case they choose the latter, they shall present the enclosed certificate to the consistory in the Grand Rapids area within eight weeks after the beginning of the semester. *Adopted.*

3. Synod decides that it shall be the responsibility of the consistory of the home church to observe this rule.

4. Synod decides that the authorities of the school are requested, before the beginning of each school year, to notify all the churches outside the Grand Rapids area of this rule.

5. Synod instructs the Publication Committee to print these certificates so that they will be available to the churches.

*Note.* A copy of these certificates as suggested by Classis Grand Rapids South is enclosed.

**STUDENT CERTIFICATE**

(Member-in-full)

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church  
of.....hereby certifies that.....

is a member-in-full of the above named church. Inasmuch as he/she expects to reside in Grand Rapids on a temporary basis as a student at our Calvin College or Seminary, this certificate is issued to him.

We request the Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church to whom he may present this certificate, to take him under its temporary supervision and care, and to grant him access to the sacraments. It shall be understood that the brother/sister shall continue to be a member of our congregation, unless and until he/she subsequently requests a regular membership certificate of us for the purpose of affiliating himself/herself with one of our churches in Grand Rapids or elsewhere. It shall also be understood that the choice places himself/herself under the supervision and care of the consistory of such a church, realizing however that this care and these favors do not entitle him/her to a voice or vote at your congregational meetings.

We shall much appreciate to hear from the consistory under whose temporary spiritual care the bearer places himself, if at any time he/she should become delinquent either in doctrine or in life.

In the name of the Consistory,

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

*Acknowledgment* to be returned to the Certifying Church

To the Consistory of the.....

Christian Reformed Church of.....

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids hereby notifies your body that.....

has presented to us the certificate you had issued to him/her, and that we have acceded to your request, and have taken him/her under our temporary spiritual care, and given him/her access to the sacraments in our midst.

Fraternally,

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

*School Record Tab* to be forwarded by Clerk of Grand Rapids Consistory to the office of Calvin College:  
Calvin College and Seminary:

This is to inform that.....of the Christian Reformed Church of.....has come under our temporary spiritual care while away from his home church as a student at Calvin College or Seminary.

Fraternally,  
Consistory of the.....Chr. Ref.  
Church

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

The following Student Certificate is suggested for members-by-baptism.

**STUDENT CERTIFICATE**  
(Member-by-Baptism)

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church at.....hereby certifies that.....

is a member-by-baptism of our congregation. Inasmuch as he/she expects to reside in Grand Rapids on a temporary basis as a student at our Calvin College, this certificate is given to him/her. We request the consistory of the church to whom he/she may present this certificate to take him/her under its temporary spiritual care, and specifically to permit him to attend its catechism classes.



In case the subject of this certificate should neglect the services of the Word and/or fail to attend the catechism classes, or should make himself/herself worthy of your admonition and correction for some other reason, we shall much appreciate to be informed of this fact.

In the name of the consistory  
Fraternally,

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

Acknowledgment to be returned to the certifying Church

To the Consistory of the Christian

Reformed Church of.....

The Consistory of the..... Christian Reformed  
Church of Grand Rapids hereby notifies your body that.....

.....has presented to us the certificate you had issued to  
him/her, and that we have acceded to your request and have taken  
him/her under our temporary spiritual care.

Fraternally,

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

*School Record Tab* (To be forwarded to the Dean of Students of Calvin  
College)

This is to inform you that.....of the Christian Re-  
formed Church of.....has come under our temporary  
ecclesiastical care, while away from his home church as a student at  
Calvin College.

Fraternally,

Consistory of the.....  
Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids

Date.....

\* \* \* \* \*

#### V. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES BY SYNOD.

A. *Material: Overture No. 37.*

B. *Recommendation:*

Your Committee recommends that Synod answer the overture of Classis Alberta by stating, that it has reckoned with the spirit of this overture, but does not wish to move in the direction of making it a rule that two days should be allowed for the examination of the Candidates.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Synod in 1953 did devote more time to the examination than was done last year. cf. Art. 13.

2. In the judgment of Synod the examination as it was conducted this year was rather thorough. *Adopted.*

#### ARTICLE 164

The *Committee on Appointments*, Rev. A. De Kruyter reporting, presents the following:

1. Synod approve the election of the following members of the *Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary:*

<i>Classis</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Alberta.....	Rev. J. K. Van Baalen.....	Rev. G. Van Laar
California.....	Rev. H. De Mots.....	Rev. H. Kuiper
Chatham.....	Rev. H. Venema.....	Rev. G. J. Vander Ziel
Chicago North.....	Rev. R. Veenstra.....	Rev. H. J. Triezenberg
Chicago South.....	Rev. G. Hoeksema.....	Rev. D. Hoitenga
Eastern Ontario.....	Rev. R. J. Bos.....	Rev. J. Rubingh
Grand Rapids East.....	Rev. Geo. Gritter.....	Rev. W. Van Rees
Grand Rapids South.....	Rev. M. Monsma.....	Rev. L. Greenway
Grand Rapids West.....	Rev. J. T. Holwerda.....	Rev. C. Vanden Heuvel
Hackensack.....	Rev. H. Bouma.....	Rev. A. Hoekema
Hamilton.....	Rev. G. Andre.....	Rev. T. C. Van Kooten
Holland.....	Rev. J. T. Hoogstra.....	Rev. Wm. P. Brink
Hudson.....	Rev. N. J. Monsma.....	
Kalamazoo.....	Rev. E. B. Pekelder.....	Rev. J. Vander Ploeg
Minnesota North.....	Rev. J. H. Rubingh.....	Rev. S. Werkema
Minnesota South.....	Rev. R. Veldman.....	Rev. P. Van Tuinen
Muskegon.....	Rev. E. J. Tanis.....	Rev. L. Veldkamp
Orange City.....	Rev. J. Griffioen.....	Rev. H. Minnema
Ostfriesland.....	Rev. H. Zwaanstra.....	Rev. K. Tebben
Pacific.....	Rev. C. M. Schoolland.....	Rev. C. Vander Ark
Pella.....	Rev. John Geels.....	Rev. C. R. Veenstra
Sioux Center.....	Rev. B. J. Haan.....	
Wisconsin.....	Rev. G. Rozenboom.....	Rev. B. T. Haan
Zeeland.....	Rev. J. Bruinooge.....	Rev. H. Verduin
Eastern District.....	Mr. J. Hamersma.....	Mr. S. Steen
Central District.....	Mr. L. Bere.....	Mr. B. Vellinga
	Dr. D. De Vries.....	Mr. T. Ribbens
	Mr. H. Holtvluwer.....	Mr. J. Van't Hof
Midwest District.....	Mr. J. De Nooyer.....	Mr. Ernest Feenstra
Far West District.....	Mr. H. Fles.....	Mr. Arnold Hulst
	Mr. B. Staal.....	Mr. Fred Winter
	Mr. G. Andreas.....	Mr. John Brouwer
	Mr. H. Elenbaas.....	

*Approved.*

II. Synod approve the election of the following members of the *Christian Reformed Board of Missions*:

<i>Classis</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Alberta.....	Rev. John C. Verbrugge.....	Rev. Elco Ostendorp
California.....	Rev. Gerrit B. Boerefyn.....	Rev. Frank De Jong
Chatham.....	Rev. John Gritter.....	Rev. Wm. Buursma
Chicago North.....	Rev. Martin Bolt.....	Rev. Oliver Breen
Chicago South.....	Rev. Henry Bajema.....	Rev. E. Visser
Eastern Ontario.....	Rev. Albert H. Smit.....	Rev. D. Grasman
Grand Rapids East.....	Rev. Fred Van Houten.....	Rev. C. Boomsma
Grand Rapids South.....	Dr. Richard J. Kreulen.....	Dr. George Goris
Grand Rapids West.....	Rev. Richard De Ridder.....	Rev. J. Eppinga
Hackensack.....	Rev. Harold Bossenbroef.....	Rev. D. Van Halsema
Hamilton.....	Rev. J. M. Dykstra.....	Rev. Andrew Folkema
Holland.....	Rev. John Beebe.....	Rev. Carl Kromminga
Hudson.....	Rev. Wm. Vander Haak.....	Rev. A. H. Oussoren
Kalamazoo.....	Rev. Simon A. Dykstra.....	Rev. J. O. Schuring
Minnesota North.....	Rev. Simon Viss.....	Rev. Sidney Werkema

Minnesota South.....	Rev. R. H. Wezeman.....	Rev. S. Kramer
Muskegon.....	Rev. John C. Scholten.....	
Orange City.....	Rev. D. D. Bonnema.....	Rev. John Masselink
Ostfriesland.....	Rev. S. Miersma.....	Rev. Garrett Pars
Pacific.....	Rev. P. De Koekkoek.....	Rev. Walter Hekman
Pella.....	Rev. M. Ouwinga.....	Rev. Albert Veltkamp
Sioux Center.....	Rev. G. Vander Plaats.....	Rev. Carl Toeset
Wisconsin.....	Rev. Wm. Alkema.....	Rev. Bartel Huizenga
Zeeland.....	Rev. Robert Evenhuis.....	Rev. C. Schemper

## Members-at-large:

John Van Dellen..... Dr. Richard De Mol  
 Dr. E. Y. Monsma.....

Mr. J. T. Daverman.....

Secretary..... Rev. Henry J. Evenhous

Assistant-Secretary..... Mr. Alvin Huibregtse.....

*Approved.*

III. Synod approve the election of the following *Synodical Delegates for Examination*:

<i>Classis</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Alberta.....	Rev. J. Hanenburg.....	Rev. G. Van Laar
California.....	Rev. H. Kuiper.....	Rev. J. Visser
Chatham.....	Rev. G. J. Vander Ziel.....	Rev. J. Gritter
Chicago North.....	Rev. R. L. Veenstra.....	
Chicago South.....	Rev. P. Holwerda.....	Rev. E. Visser
Eastern Ontario.....	Rev. L. Van Laar.....	Rev. H. Moes
Grand Rapids East.....	Rev. C. Boonmsma.....	Rev. R. J. Danhof
Grand Rapids South.....	Rev. L. Greenway.....	Rev. Wm. Van Peurseem
Grand Rapids West.....	Rev. C. Vanden Heuvel.....	Rev. J. Eppinga
Hackensack.....	Rev. H. Bouma.....	Rev. B. Spalink
Hamilton.....	Rev. A. Persenaire.....	Rev. C. Spoelhof
Holland.....	Rev. A. Hoogstrate.....	Rev. C. Kromminga
Hudson.....	Rev. O. Holtrop.....	Rev. N. J. Monsma
Kalamazoo.....	Rev. E. B. Pekelder.....	Rev. Charles Greenfield
Minnesota North.....	Rev. J. H. Rubingh.....	
Minnesota South.....	Rev. J. Vanden Hoek.....	Rev. R. Veldman
Muskegon.....	Rev. L. Veltkamp.....	Rev. D. Drost
Orange City.....	Rev. J. Masselink.....	Rev. A. Dusseljee
Ostfriesland.....	Rev. A. A. Koning.....	Rev. S. P. Miersma
Pacific.....	Rev. C. Vander Ark.....	
Pella.....	Rev. J. Geels.....	Rev. M. Ouwinga
Sioux Center.....	Rev. C. Huissen.....	Rev. H. C. Van Deelen
Wisconsin.....	Rev. N. Jansen.....	Rev. J. H. De Haan
Zeeland.....	Rev. J. H. Bruinooge.....	Rev. E. Van Halsema

*Approved.*

IV. Synod approve the election of the following members of the *General Committee for Home Missions*:

<i>Classis</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Alberta.....	Rev. J. De Jong.....	Rev. R. Star
California.....	Rev. J. Hollebeek.....	Rev. K. De W. Malefy
Chatham.....	Rev. J. Rook.....	Rev. Jos. Vande Kieft
Chicago North.....	Rev. H. Baker.....	
Chicago South.....	Rev. B. Van Someren.....	Rev. D. Hoitenga

<i>Classis</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Eastern Ontario.....	Rev. L. Van Laar.....	Rev. H. Moes
Grand Rapids East.....	Rev. H. Dykhouse.....	Rev. G. Vander Hill
Grand Rapids South.....	Rev. J. A. Mulder.....	Rev. T. Yff
Grand Rapids West.....	Rev. E. Masselink.....	Rev. B. Pekelder
Hackensack.....	Rev. C. Holtrop.....	
Hamilton.....	Rev. A. Persenaire.....	Rev. C. Spoelhof
Holland.....	Rev. G. Kok.....	Rev. J. Hekman
Hudson.....	Rev. O. Holtrop.....	Rev. H. Sonnema
Kalamazoo.....	Rev. J. Schuring.....	Rev. G. H. Vande Riet
Minnesota North.....	Rev. J. Medendorp.....	Rev. W. Ackerman
Minnesota South.....	Rev. A. H. Selles.....	Rev. H. Vander Aa
Muskegon.....	Rev. R. Wildschut.....	Rev. D. Mellema
Orange City.....	Rev. G. Postma.....	Rev. W. Prince
Ostfriesland.....	Rev. J. Olthof.....	Rev. L. Bazuin
Pacific.....	Rev. J. R. Van Dyke.....	Rev. W. Verwolf
Pella.....	Rev. H. Vander Kam.....	Rev. Simon De Vries
Sioux Center.....	Rev. W. Vande Kieft.....	Rev. J. C. Ribbens
Wisconsin.....	Rev. W. Meyer.....	Rev. B. Huizenga
Zeeland.....	Rev. J. Guichelaar.....	Rev. J. Breuker

## Members-at-large:

Mr. Bert Brouwer.....	Mr. C. Van Malsen
Mr. T. Hoeksema.....	Mr. R. Dykema
Mr. F. Oldemulders.....	Mr. H. Rottschafer

Approved.

V. The Committee on Appointments recommends that Synod approve the following appointments:

A. *STANDING COMMITTEES:*

- Synodical Committee:* Dr. Y. P. De Jong; Rev. N. J. Monsma; Rev. E. F. J. Van Halsema; Stated Clerk (ex officio). Alternate, Dr. H. Kuiper (term expires 1954).
- Stated Clerk:* Dr. R. J. Danhof (term expires 1954). Alternate: Rev. William P. Brink.
- Synodical Treasurer:* Mr. Tony Noordewier; alternate, Mr. L. Ippel (term expires 1954).
- Treasurer of Canadian Churches:* Mr. J. Vander Vliet (term expires 1954).
- Representative British and Foreign Bible Society:* Rev. C. Witt; Alternate, Rev. Joseph Vande Kieft.
- Representative General Commission Army and Navy Chaplains:* Rev. Harold Dekker, Alternate Rev. F. W. Van Houten.
- Centennial Committee:* Prof. J. G. Vanden Bosch, Dr. Henry Zylstra, Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Dr. J. H. Kromminga, Mr. S. Youngsma. (This committee may organize itself).
- Committee on Ecumenicity and Correspondence with other Churches:* Dr. W. H. Rutgers, Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Rev. M. Monsma, Stated Clerk (ex officio).
- Historical Committee:* Dr. J. Kromminga, Prof. H. J. Van Andel, Rev. G. Stob, Dr. E. Y. Monsma.
- Transportation Secretary:* Mr. A. H. Andriese.
- Committee for Making Arrangements and Mimeographing Reports for next Synod:* Dr. E. Y. Monsma. Alternate, Mr. L. Ippel.

12. *Representative Lord's Day Alliance*: Dr. O. Holtrop. Alternate, Rev. D. L. Van Halsema.
13. *Representative National Christian Association*: Rev. John A. De Kruyter. Alternate: Rev. A. De Kruyter.
14. *United Youth Committee*: Rev. L. Dykstra, Mrs. C. Bouma, two to be appointed by the AFYWS and two to be appointed by the YCF.
15. *Committee for Denominational Building*: Mr. Herman Baker, Mr. P. D. Bouma, Mr. James Ryskamp, Mr. Walter Hofstra, Dr. H. Kreulen, Mr. R. Van Dellen, Mr. Ben Hertel.
16. *Canadian Immigration Committee*: Rev. P. J. Hoekstra, Mr. J. Vander Vliet, Rev. A. Disselkoe, Mr. J. Vander Velden, Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, and one representative each of Classes Chatham, Hamilton, and Minnesota North.
17. *Committee for Korean Reformed Spiritual Relief*: Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Dr. J. Kromminga, Rev. M. Vanderwerp, Mr. A. Naber, Mr. E. VerMaat.
18. *Contact Committee*: Rev. E. F. J. Van Halsema and Stated Clerk.
19. *Special Advisory and Assisting Budget Committee for Synod 1954*: Mr. H. Hoekstra, Mr. M. De Young, Mr. Frank Dieleman, Mr. F. L. Winter.
20. *Reformed Missionary Council*: Rev. Henry Evenhouse. Alternate, Rev. R. De Ridder.
21. *Pension Board of Calvin College and Seminary*: Mr. Lambert Beré, Mr. T. Noordewier.
22. *Synodical Representative on Bible Tract League (Faith, Prayer and Tract League)*: Mr. J. Keuning.
23. *Calvinist Resettlement Service Committee*: Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, Rev. W. Van Rees, one elder from Neland Ave., one elder from Dennis Ave., one deacon from Oakdale Park, one deacon from West Leonard, one deacon from Grandville Ave., one deacon from Alpine Ave.
24. *Liaison Man World Home Bible League*: Mr. George Vande Werken.
25. *Committee to Publish Sermons for Reading Services*: Rev. P. De Koekoek, Rev. W. Verwolf, Rev. L. Voskuil; General Alternate: Rev. T. Verhulst.
26. *Investigation Committee in matter of Rev. P. Vos*: Rev. G. Hoeksema, Rev. P. Holwerda, Rev. M. Arnoys, Mr. George De Boer, Mr. Gerrit Evenhouse.
27. *Committee on South America and Ceylon*: Prof. J. Kromminga, Rev. Wm. Kok, Rev. C. Vanden Heuvel, Dr. E. Strikwerda, Rev. T. Yff, Mr. J. De Haan.
28. *Committee for Church Help*: Rev. Louis Bouma, Rev. D. D. Bonnema, Mr. C. R. Mulder, Mr. S. Elgersma, Rev. A. Baker. Alternate: Rev. A. Dusseljee.
29. *Representative American Bible Society*: Rev. H. Bouma. Alternate: Rev. E. Callender.
30. *Convening Church for Next Synod*: Boston Square Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
31. *Committee Mission S.S. Lesson Planning*: Rev. H. Verduin, Rev. J. H. Piersma, Rev. W. Van Rees, Mr. A. Vander Veer, Miss Katie Gunnink. This committee will function until the new committee on S.S. Planning assumes responsibility for S.S. material.
32. *Committee S.S. Lesson Planning*: Rev. D. H. Walters, Rev. J. H. Bratt, Dr. John Van Bruggen, Miss Dena Korfker, Mr. C. Faber, Mr. A. J. Hoogewind.

- This committee will function until the new committee on S.S. Planning assumes responsibility for S.S. material.
33. *Committee on Sunday School Planning*: Rev. W. Van Peurseem, Miss Dena Korfker, Dr. L. De Beer, Mr. A. Vander Veer, Rev. Harold Dekker, Rev. W. Van Rees (Committee to organize itself).
  34. *Committee to study overture of Classis Ostfriesland appealing decision of 1951 Synod re N.A.E.*: Rev. G. J. Rozenboom, Rev. E. Boer, Rev. R. Rienstra, Mr. C. Wondergem, Dr. E. Peters.
  35. *Back to God Hour*: Rev. H. Baker, Rev. G. Postma, Rev. J. Zandstra, Rev. W. Kok, Rev. A. Hoogstrate, Rev. R. O. De Groot; Messrs. Keith Den Dulk, H. Hoving, John Hamstra, Dick Evenhouse, Gary Zuiderveen, Herman Fles (Committee to organize itself).
  36. *Chaplain Committee*: Rev. H. Van Til, Rev. F. W. Van Houten, Rev. G. Vander Kooi, Rev. Harold Dekker, Mr. Harry Faber.
  37. *Publication Committee*: Dr. H. H. Meeter, Rev. C. Boomsma, Rev. W. Van Peurseem, Rev. John Mulder, Messrs. G. I. Buist, G. Hertel, A. Hulst, J. Peterson, A. Vanden Bout (Committee to organize itself).
  38. *Student Fellowship Committee*: Rev. M. Monsma, Rev. G. Andre, Rev. E. J. Tanis, Mr. H. Fles, Dr. T. Dirkse, Rev. L. Van Laar.
  39. *Synodical Tract Committee*: G. Dykman, Rev. W. Vander Hoven, Rev. G. Vande Riet, Rev. L. Veltkamp, Rev. D. H. Walters, Rev. N. L. Veltman, Mr. E. Postma; Mr. Jacob De Jager, Mr. R. Weidenaar.

*Approved.*

#### B. FRATERNAL DELEGATES:

1. Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
2. Assembly of Reformed Presbyterian Church.
3. Free Magyar Reformed Church Synod.
4. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (General Synod).
5. Korean Presbyterian Church.

Recommend that the Synodical Committee appoint these fraternal delegates.

*Approved.*

6. Reformed Church of Japan: Rev. H. Bruinooge; Alternate: Rev. R. Sytsma.

*Approved.*

#### C. STUDY COMMITTEES:

1. *Committee on Particular Synods*: Rev. B. J. Haan, Rev. J. Griffioen, Rev. P. Van Tuinen, Rev. S. Kramer, Rev. G. Vander Plaats.
2. *Committee on Improvement and Revision of Psalter Hymnal and Synodically Approved Hymn Book*: Dr. H. Bruinsma, Rev. D. Van Halsema, Mr. M. Baas, Mr. A. Hartog, Miss Johanna Oranje, Mrs. Trena Haan, Prof. H. Zylstra, Rev. D. H. Walters, Rev. W. Rutgers, Prof. J. De Jonge, Prof. S. Swets.
3. *Church Order Revision*: Rev. M. Monsma, Rev. I. Van Dellen, Dr. R. J. Danhof, Dr. J. Kromminga, Rev. R. J. Bos.
4. *Committee for Realignment of Missions and Church Extension*: Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, Dr. E. Strikwerda, Rev. G. Stob. Rev. J. A. Mulder, Rev. W. P. Brink, Dr. R. O. De Groot, Rev. R. De Ridder.

5. *Committee for Junior Colleges*: Dr. H. Kuiper, Rev. M. Vander Zwaag, Rev. H. Radius, Rev. H. De Mots, Dr. J. Hoekzema, Mr. L. Van Noord.

6. *Committee for Belgic Confession*: Rev. J. Weidenaar, Rev. L. Verduin, Dr. Clarence Boersma.

7. *Committee for Rules for Neighborhood Evangelism*: Rev. W. P. Brink, Rev. C. Kromminga, Mr. A. Vander Veer, Dr. R. Wierenga, Rev. C. Vanden Heuvel.

8. *Committee on Divorce and Remarriage*: Rev. W. Kok, Dr. J. Kromminga, Rev. J. Vander Ploeg, Rev. B. J. Haan, Rev. H. Erffmeyer, Rev. F. W. Van Houten.

9. *Committee for Insurance on Church Properties*: Rev. Gerben Zylstra, Mr. E. Beezhold, Mr. B. Vellinga, Mr. H. P. Ottenhof.

10. *Committee to Prepare Form for Erasure of Members by Baptism*: Rev. N. Monsma, Rev. H. Sonnema, Rev. S. Van Dyken.

11. *Committee to Study the Revised Standard Version of Scripture*: Prof. H. Schultze, Prof. M. Wyngarden, Prof. R. Stob, Prof. J. Weidenaar.

12. *Committee to study the matter contained in Overture 57 to Synod of 1953 re admission of ministers from other denominations*: Rev. E. B. Pekelder, Rev. J. Vander Ploeg, Rev. J. Entingh, Mr. Maynard Hoekstra, Mr. Anthony Vanden Berg.

13. *Committee on Labor Matters*: Rev. P. Holwerda, Rev. R. J. Bos, Rev. John Vander Meer, Rev. W. Van Rees, Mr. C. Van Valkenburg, Mr. Joseph Gritter, Dr. H. J. Ryskamp.

14. *Principles of Education Committee*: Dr. John Van Bruggen, Rev. Otto De Groot, Mr. H. J. Kuiper.

15. *Form for the Lord's Supper*: Rev. J. C. Verbrugge, E. H. Oostendorp, J. K. Van Baalen, J. Hanenburg.

#### ARTICLE 165

##### *Foreign Student Sponsorship:*

1. Synod instructs the Board of Trustees to appoint a committee on sponsorship of foreign students.

2. Synod authorizes this committee to secure individual sponsors for such students who are qualified for admission by the College or the Seminary.

3. Synod authorizes this committee to seek support for any individual sponsor in the event such sponsorship involve the sponsor in a burdensome financial obligation.

4. Synod authorizes this committee to apply, if need be, to various churches or groups of churches for financial aid to needy foreign students, studying with us under a foreign student sponsorship, this aid to be sought only for ministerial or missionary work outside of the United States.

## ARTICLE 166

The minutes of the Monday sessions are read and approved.

## ARTICLE 167

Dr. P. J. Coetzee speaks words of appreciation, farewell and encouragement. The Chair makes a fitting and hearty response.

## ARTICLE 168

The President delivers the following closing address:

*Members of Synod:*

We have come to the end of our labors. Though I had envisioned the closing of Synod at the end of the second week, more time proved necessary to finish the work. Now the time for adjournment has come. What the Stated Clerk has called the largest agenda in the history of our synods has been acted upon. This has been accomplished by diligent labor, effective teamwork and, let us not forget, under the enabling grace of God. Ours has been a large, calm, unified, deliberative assembly. The reports presented were, by and large, clear and convincing, obviating unnecessary discussion about formulation. The discussions were on the whole spirited, enlightening, devoid of heat, thorough, to the point, and marked by fraternal understanding. Some matters were quickly settled, others required considerable exchange of thought and a few subjects could have been discussed more fully. But, as a visitor from another communion remarked, it was apparent that the Christian Reformed Synod is an assembly where issues are still decided on the assembly floor. The new rules of order adopted last year were given their initial test and proved effective in disposing of Synod's business in an orderly manner. Time alone can tell whether the rules adopted in certain instances should be more specific.

Much work has been done. While some matters could not be fully disposed of, many others were. We admitted twenty-seven young men to the ministry, appointed or re-appointed nine men to teach one or more courses in Calvin Seminary, made twenty-four appointments or re-appointments for Calvin College, adopted new rules pertaining to the Seminary, decided to erect a denominational building and enlarged Publishing House. We approved directives for work in our mission fields. We decided to take steps to build a hospital in Lupwe, Nigeria. We took cognizance of work begun in Alaska, made decisions affecting our home mission and radio work, considered with sympathetic interest the needs of the expanding Canadian field. We gave the go-sign to the Committee on Education to provide improved materials for use in catechism and Sunday School. Much time was given for discussing the stand of the church with respect to labor problems. Voices from members in the churches appealing to Synod were heard and answered. With trust in God and confidence in the responsive love of our people, Synod gave guidance in matters financial pertaining to God's multifarious cause.

The prevailing spirit at Synod was good, wholesome, refreshing. The fellowship of brethren, the mutual helpfulness, the candidness and humor, will long be remembered. The participation in the discussion was rather general. A desire to do something positive for our beloved church was much in evidence. Our beautiful "Commons", used by Synod for the first time, with its commodious halls, modern appointments, excellent cuisine and courteous personnel, contributed in no small measure to the right atmosphere. Our newest building on the campus supplies a long-felt need and elicits praise from delegates, students and visitors alike.



The Synod of 1953 will be remembered as a constructive Synod. Mindful of material needs and conscious of deeper Kingdom interests, it engaged in building, building the walls of Zion, building bulwarks for the defense and vindication of the truth. In days of modernity, apostasy and lukewarmness, the need for united, constructive work is great, not only on the home front but also in distant mission fields. Special prayer and effort went into the rebuilding of our Seminary. The time has come that forgetting the things which are behind, we stretch forward to the things which are before. Synod also took steps to fill the vacant chair of missions as soon as possible. Realizing its ecumenical calling, Synod welcomed the Reformed Churches of Australia as a sister church, fellowshipped with brethren in the faith from other churches and clasped the hand of Dr. P. J. Coetzee who, accompanied by Mrs. Coetzee, brought greetings from our sister church in South Africa. Synod was happy to hear from and behold some of its missionaries in the field. Mindful of its constructive task, it remembered the needs of the Kingdom, it prayed for the sick, the sorrowing and those in authority. It prayed and labored for the furtherance, the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

As your President, I want to thank you all for your heart-warming cooperation: especially the Vice-president for his wise counsel and congenial assistance, the busy Clerks for their prompt and accurate recording of Synod's transactions, the efficient and ubiquitous Stated Clerk for his many services, Dr. Edwin Y. Monsma and his staff for their good and accurate work before and during Synod. I want to thank the advisers, the reporters, and Mr. Henry Kooi and his staff in the "gold star" Commons. For the first time in our history regular reports of Synod's doings were transmitted over the radio. It was with real pleasure that I presided at your sessions.

Brethren, our work at Synod is done. The work in the home field continues. Let us encourage and stimulate our people in the work of the Kingdom. May your work at Synod have given you a deeper insight in the work of your Church and in the glory and needs of the Kingdom. While making a living, let us live a life, the life of "Fellow-workers of God in the Building of His Church." God bless you, protect you on your homeward way and make you a blessing in the vineyard of God.

E. VAN HALSEMA

The Vice-President responds as follows:

Mr. President:

It is a genuine pleasure for me to represent Synod in conveying to you this word of appreciation for your very capable leadership because I can do so without any mental reservations. At no time was there any question in the minds of the delegates as to your fairness and impartiality. You assumed no prerogatives which were not yours. The decisions made were those of Synod. The tension which at times developed, never caused you to lose patience or to depart from your deliberate and controlled manner of presiding and your sense of kindly humor often relieved the strain of the moment. For me, personally, and I am certain the other officers share this feeling, it has been a great privilege to have served with you. We have all, as delegates been strengthened in our admiration of and affection for you as we sat under your leadership and as we fellowshipped with you between sessions. We appreciate the warmth of your mature, Christian personality. May God bless you and keep you as you leave behind you the cares and strain of your office to attend a meeting of religious

leaders in beautiful Switzerland and give you to return in safety to continue your very devoted service of the Church and Kingdom.

DR. G. GORIS

## ARTICLE 169

Synod sings Psalter-Hymnal No. 443 stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6. Synod adjourns. The president in a moving prayer commits the work done by the Synod, and the Church with all its needs, to the loving kindness of God.

*Attested a True Copy*

**Dr. R. J. Danhof, Stated Clerk**  
944 Neland Ave., S.E.  
Grand Rapids 7, Michigan  
U.S.A.

**Rev. E. F. J. Van Halsema, President**  
**Dr. George Goris, Vice-President**  
**Rev. John Gritter, First Clerk**  
**Rev. John Breuker, Second Clerk**



## SUPPLEMENT NO. 1

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
(Art. 84)

## ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

THE Bible Society work was started by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1803, when a group of consecrated Christians in London banded together for the purpose of making God's Word available to all the nations of the earth. This year the 150th anniversary will be commemorated in many lands. Our American Bible Society was organized 137 years ago. At the present time there are 24 Bible Societies in various parts of the world, closely cooperating in this glorious task. The Word of God has been published in 1049 languages and parts of at least one book of the Bible have been published in 85 additional languages. The largest share of the work today is done by the American Bible Society. All the other countries, especially Britain, are impoverished; yet in spite of this they carry a proportionately heavier share than before. Our country is prosperous and the need of Bible translation and distribution is greater than ever before. This places upon us the special responsibility of prayerfully trying to meet this need.

It was for this purpose that about 60 representatives of more than 50 denominations met as the Advisory Council at the main office of the American Bible Society on December 2nd and 3rd, 1952. Reports were received from the workers in the various fields and plans were discussed for the coming year.

The American Bible Society operates thru a fourfold program: it aids translators of the Bible; it publishes the Bible; it distributes the Bible and it encourages the use of the Bible. This year the "Ragoli Bible" was completed after more than 35 years of effort. It is printed in the language of the Maragoli, a nation of 250,000 people in East Africa.

Translations in 31 languages have been examined. There have come from the printers ten translations, mostly for tribes in Latin America. Others are in the hands of the printers or in the process of translation.

Without this translation work which is carried on by missionaries in close cooperation with the American Bible Society, all foreign mission work would be tremendously handicapped. Our own missionaries among the Indians, in Nigeria, Japan and India get the Scriptures directly or indirectly from the Bible Society.

You can readily see what a tremendous task it is to translate and publish such Scriptures and the expense involved. No mission board of any church could do this. Here all the churches thru the American Bible Society work together and each missionary can get the Scriptures in the language he needs.

Another large field of endeavor is distribution of Scriptures among the colored people in our own country. Colporteurs have distributed half a million of Scriptures mostly in the Southern States.

Let us not forget the advancing work for the blind that is carried on. The Bible is printed in Braille and requires eighteen bulky volumes. A complete Bible costs \$60.00 to print and bind it. They are sold for twenty-five cents a volume to the blind, or they receive them as a gift if they are needy. The Braille Bible is now available in six languages.

This is only a part of the extensive work done in our own country. The work done abroad also goes forward in spite of opposition. The door in China is closed. But during the last few years Scriptures have been printed and stored in China for such an emergency. No reliable information can get through at present. But native workers are still trying to carry on. However, Bible distribution is carried on in Hong-kong, and Scriptures in Chinese are going from that point to Formosa and to Chinese speaking people in Southeast Asia and even in Europe and Africa.

In Latin America we see a brighter picture. Local congregations in Mexico contributed \$48,000 for Bible work among their own nation. Even in countries where we hear of persecution of the Protestant churches the Bible distribution goes on. In many Latin countries the people ask for and buy not only a New Testament, but demand whole Bibles.

The work done in Bible lands, as Palestine, Egypt, Syria, made good progress. More than 300,000 Scriptures, mostly in Arabic, Armenian and Turkish, were distributed. This is a difficult field; much hostility is encountered.

The work in the Far East, outside of China, is very promising. More than one million Scriptures have gone to Formosa, not only to the Chinese soldiers, but also to the Aborigines in the mountains.

The story from Japan speaks of an amazing progress. In 1951 3,372,000 volumes were distributed, and in the years 1949-1952 it has reached more than ten millions. This work was carried on by churches, bookstores and colporteurs. These men on their triangle-carts carry the Scriptures to every part of the country.

Korea is the land of sorrow and misery, but also of opportunity for mission work. The chaplains ask for Scriptures in nine languages for the forces fighting for freedom. For the Korean army and civil popula-

tion more than 700,000 volumes were sent; and for the Chinese prisoners another 50,000.

This is a picture of the world wide work of our American Bible Society. When the budget was presented, the money that is available for the new year does not cover emergency projects for necessary extension work in Hongkong, Formosa, Korea, Japan and Burma. It also showed that the gifts received from our Christian Reformed Church in the first ten months of 1952 were thirty percent less than those given in 1951 in the same period.

The need for more Scriptures, the Bread of Life, is evident from the following figures:

The American Bible Society printed and distributed in 1949, 8,815,000; in 1950, 10,028,000 and in 1951, 12,332,000 volumes. And many calls come in for still more. Besides, many of our men in the army and navy ask for complete Bibles instead of New Testaments. Every true believer will rejoice in this.

May I kindly request Synod to recommend this cause to all of our churches in the United States for increased moral and financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

HESSEL BOUMA

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

**A**FTER the report of the meeting of the American Bible Society of December 2nd and 3rd had been sent in, there appeared in *The Banner* of January 2nd, an article on the Revised Standard version of the Bible. In this article the writer gave the following advice: "To re-examine the question whether you should continue to support the American Bible Society — originally organized to print the Bible without note or comment — which will now begin to circulate the 1952 Bible on a wide scale." This statement is misleading and your delegate has received letters from members of our church asking for information. I am sure that you will not take it amiss that I try to correct any misunderstanding in respect to this matter, and make this a belated part of my report.

It is not true that the American Bible Society "will begin to circulate the 1952 Bible on a wide scale." The constitution of the Bible Society allows at present to print only the following versions: the King James version of 1611, the Revised version of 1885, the American Standard Revised Version of 1901, and the New Testament of the Revised Standard Version issued in 1946. Not any of these New Testaments of 1946 have been published by the American Bible Society, but at the request of some missionaries, the Gospels and the

book of Acts have been published in the small, three cent, paper covered edition for distribution among the illiterate people in some southern States. No Bibles of the Revised Standard Version can be printed by the American Bible Society. No New Testaments have been printed because of copyright restrictions.

The American Bible Society does not favor any particular version. The King James version will continue to be published by the Bible Society, and, as the secretary of the American Bible Society expressed it: "It is now and will remain undoubtedly our most widely circulated English edition as it has been through all the years. Moreover any person or church making a donation to the American Bible Society has a right to designate the particular version for which the gift shall be used; and this is carefully observed."

Other voices have been heard advising our people to discontinue the support of the American Bible Society and give it to the smaller organizations as the Home Bible League and the Gideon organization. Such persons do not understand the unique place and task of the American Bible Society, together with the British, the Netherlands and other Bible Societies. These organizations, representing all the Protestant churches engaged in worldwide mission work, supply the missionaries with the word of God in the languages of all the nations of the earth. The whole Bible or parts of it have been translated in more than 1,000 languages, but there are still about a thousand more in which not even a small part of Scripture has been translated nor published.

This tremendous task can be done only by the united efforts of the churches, and I am sure that our church will not withhold its support from this necessary and glorious mission enterprise. The smaller Bible organizations when they distribute Scriptures in foreign languages, obtain these directly or indirectly from the American Bible Society.

If more information is needed, a representative of the American Bible Society will be glad to give Synod or its committee full information.

Respectfully submitted,

HESSEL BOUMA.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 2**

(Arts. 69, 158)

**THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

**T**HE Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission herewith submits its report of its activities in the year 1952 for your information and consideration.

The Paterson Hebrew Mission is under the direct jurisdiction of Classes Hudson and Hackensack, and is conducted by a Board consisting of four members of each of the forementioned Classes.

During the past year five (5) of the Board members have been replaced by others. Rev. B. H. Spalink, Dr. O. Holtrop, Mr. Richard Meyer, S. E. Greydanus and Mr. A. Atema. They have been replaced by Rev. Thomas Van Eerden, Dr. John E. Meeter, Mr. Elmer Heerema, Mr. Albert De Vries and Mr. U. Stonehouse respectively. However, beings that it practically resulted in an entire new board and that the remaining members of the Board, except one, had only served a short time. Mr. S. E. Greydanus, having served as Secretary for 6 years, was asked to serve another year as Secretary and upon his acquiescence was appointed delegate at large subject to the approval of Classes Hudson and Hackensack. The Board herewith expresses its appreciation for the faithful services rendered by the retiring Board members.

The Board is now constituted as follows: Rev. E. Joling, President; Rev. T. Van Eerden, Vice President; Mr. S. E. Greydanus, Secretary; Mr. Elmer Heerema, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Albert De Vries, Treasurer; Rev. S. Van Dyken; Dr. J. E. Meeter; Mr. J. De Leeuw and Mr. U. Stonehouse.

Thee Board having extended through its Calling Church, the Third Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, N. J., five calls to Ministers in the Christian Reformed Church finally, with the approval of the Synodical Examiners, extended a call to Rev. David B. Muir, a graduate of Calvin College and Westminster Seminary and now a Minister in the United Presbyterian Church of Gibson, Iowa. With thanks to our God the Board is happy to report that Rev. Muir has accepted the call, "to come over and help us," subject to the Colloquium Doctum to be conducted by the Classis Hackensack and the Synodical Examiners, D. V. March 17, 1953.

The Mission Workers are as follows: Superintendent Elect, Rev. David B. Muir; Miss Martha Rosendal, Nurse and full time worker; Miss Wilhelmina Tuit, full time worker; Dr. Peter G. Berkhout, Phy-



sician. During the vacancy the Minister Board Members each in turn took charge of the Saturday evening Gospel meetings for a month.

The Board had purchased the home of our former Superintendent, Rev. Rosendal, for a parsonage. However, as previously reported on account of adverse criticism same has been disposed of in the past year with approval of Classes.

Being that Rev. Muir has accepted the call the Board took steps at once to provide a home for him and his family. The Building Committee of the Board was directed to investigate various possibilities and finally three properties were listed by the Committee for the Board's inspection. The Board as a whole together with Rev. Muir inspected all three and after a thorough discussion decided to purchase a property in Wyckoff, N. J.

The plot is 100 ft. by 150 ft., the dwelling is a modern 6 room dwelling with bath and extra lavatory and spacious basement and automatic heat. The cost being \$19,000.00, however, there is no garage. The estimated cost to built a 2 car garage is about \$2000.00. The Board respectfully ask for your approval of this action.

The Board respectfully recommends that the Paterson Hebrew Mission Board be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present. The two Classes meet at different times. One Classis meets three times per year the other Classis meets only twice per year. Sometimes there is an elapse of two months or more between meetings of the two Classes to which the same matters are submitted for approval. Because of this, the possibility exists that one Classis approves a matter and that after two or more months the other Classis does not approve the same matter. This would create an awkward position for the Board. Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis a much closer and direct co-operation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency and with possible advantage to this Kingdom Work.

The activities of the Mission are centered and go out from the Mission Building, # 253 Hamilton Ave., Paterson, N. J. For a detail report of the activities of the Mission kindly note the attached report of the Lady Workers.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. Albert De Vries, for the year 1952 is attached to this report, same has been properly audited as required.

Also attached is the Proposed Budget for the year 1954.

Trusting that this report will give you a general oversight of the work and activities of the Paterson Hebrew Mission for the year 1952.

In conclusion the Board herewith expresses its appreciation to the Mission workers and Physician for their devotion for this important Kingdom Work and their difficult labor that they perform in bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people.

May we ask for your continued support—moral and financial—and above all, your continued prayers and especially for the Superintendent Elect as he will commence his labor for Jewish Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. E. GREYDANUS, *Secretary*

Approved at a meeting of the Board,  
held January 6, 1953.

**WORKERS' REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION  
FOR THE YEAR 1952**

*To the Synod*

ESTEEMED BRETHERN:

In the absence of a superintendent we humbly submit our report of the work at the Paterson Hebrew Mission.

We have been privileged to bring the Gospel to many Jewish people in this area by means of Gospel meetings, classes for women and children, medical clinic, and visitation in the homes (especially in apartment houses where most of the Jewish people live).

Gospel meetings are held regularly on Saturday evenings with an average attendance of 12 Jewish adults, almost all of them women. Most of these women have been coming to the Mission for many years. Again and again they have heard the Gospel. One of them claims to believe in Christ, but fears baptism because of persecution. Some of them might be called inquirers, still eager to hear the Gospel, but puzzled as to whether or not to believe it. Others seem hardened against the Gospel even though they continue to come. Since we do not have a superintendent, those of our Board members who are ministers of the Word have brought the message at our Gospel meetings, taking their turns for a period of a month at a time. The following have served in this capacity: Rev. E. Joling, Rev. S. Van Dyken, Rev. J. Meeter, and Rev. T. Van Eerden.

Classes for women are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and on Wednesday afternoons. The Monday evening class, taught by Miss Martha Rozendal, is the oldest class, and was held already for many years when the Mission was located on North Main Street. Before the Bible lesson is taught, a half hour is spent in sewing towels, pillow cases, etc., which the women may keep after sewing them. The average attendance at this class is eight women.

The Wednesday afternoon class is conducted much like that of Monday evening. Miss Rozendal takes care of the sewing period, and the second undersigned teaches the Bible.

We have endeavored to begin a new class for younger married women on Tuesday evenings this year. Many Jewish friends and acquaint-

ances were contacted with this intent, but to date only two women have enrolled, and of late only one of them has been coming since the other one has begun to work evenings. We do not offer any sewing or other form of recreation at this meeting but confine ourselves to the teaching of the Word and singing of hymns. Our Bible discussions have been encouraging; many questions are asked on the part of the Jewish women. Mrs. J. Tuit also attends the class in order to help create interest. The second undersigned teaches.

Classes for children are held twice a week, on Tuesdays for the Junior girls, and on Fridays for Grade School children. Some of our difficulties with the children are that they are kept occupied with Hebrew School, dancing lessons, and many social activities in the Y. W. & M. H. A. Also, most parents object to the children coming to a Mission where they will be taught about the Christ. At present we have nine children on roll. The second undersigned takes care of the children's work.

The Medical Clinic is open on Tuesday afternoons and evenings. Dr. Berkhout takes care of the patients with the help of Miss Rozendal as nurse. A Gospel message is given to the patients by Miss Rozendal before the doctor comes. The average number of patients per week this year was nine.

Once a month on Thursday evening a special meeting is held, to which Jewish people are invited and also a delegation from one of our churches, each church taking a turn to send visitors. A Gospel message is delivered, usually by the visiting pastor, and musical selections are given, after which a social time is spent over a cup of coffee. The average attendance this year was 14, about the same as at our Gospel Meetings.

During the course of the year 562 visits were made in the homes of the Jewish people, 1010 tracts were distributed, 73 Gospels, 8 N. Testaments, and 2 Bibles. There are many open doors where we may bring the Word.

Four of our Jewish friends passed away this year. All of them heard the Gospel often. One of them, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, came to the Mission regularly.

Our yearly picnic was held in July at Terrace Lake. A Hebrew Christian, Rev. S. Parker, from the American Board of Missions to the Jews, was the speaker. Some of the people were quite impressed by his message.

The Hebrew Christian Alliance Conference was held in Dayton, Ohio, this year. Miss Rozendal attended as delegate.

We have had the opportunity again this year to present the work of the Mission in some of our churches and societies.

We are exceedingly grateful to our God for the privilege of witnessing for Him in the Paterson area again this year. However, we are becoming more and more of the opinion that it is time for us as a church to expand the work of Jewish Missions, not just to limit ourselves to one small district. We earnestly request you to give this matter your prayerful consideration. Questions such as these trouble us: How long should we remain in a district where there are no apparent converts? Would not Paul the Apostle have moved on long ago? What would the Lord have us to do? Is our church sincerely interested in the work of Jewish Missions? If so, let us awake and spread the Gospel far and wide, and not just sit back and say, "We have two Jewish Missions: one in Paterson and one in Chicago." Maranatha.

The following is a list of statistics regarding meetings, etc.

	Number of Meetings	Total Attendance
Saturday Gospel Meetings.....	46	532
Special Meetings .....	9	128
Clinic Gospel Meetings		
Afternoons .....	49	357
Evenings .....	34	62
Ladies' Bible and Sewing Classes		
Monday Evenings .....	40	321
Wednesday Afternoons .....	38	158
Younger Ladies' Bible Class .....	19	24
Children's Bible Class (Sewing or other recreation included in each		
Grade School .....	19	93
High School .....	34	50
Daily Vac. Bible School.....	9	39
English Classes .....	71	173
One private English Pupil.....	30	30

Visits 562; tracts distributed 1,010, Gospels 73, New Testaments 8, Bibles 2.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTHA ROZENDAL  
WILHELMINA TUIT

**REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD  
TOTAL ASSETS OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION  
DECEMBER 31, 1952**

Cash in Bank .....	\$ 8,240.92
U. S. Government Bonds .....	6,000.00
Savings Account .....	8,899.59
Furniture and Equipment .....	2,000.00
Building at No. 253 Hamilton Ave.....	7,000.00
Deposit on Parsonage .....	2,000.00
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$34,140.51</b>

The Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission,

S. E. GREYDANUS, *Secretary*

**PATERSON HEBREW MISSION**  
**Financial Report for the Year of 1952**

Balance, January 1, 1952 .....\$ 2,400.23

**RECEIPTS:**

Income from General Fund.....		\$13,846.66
Offerings .....		83.47
Donations .....		95.46
Insurance—Third Church (Miss Rozendal) .....		175.00
Sale of Parsonage .....		11,237.00
Rent .....		60.00
Clinic .....		96.55

Total Income ..... 25,594.14

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

\$27,994.37

Salaries, Net .....		\$4,257.64
Withholding Tax .....	547.60	\$ 4,805.24
Physician's Salary .....		900.00
Compensation to Speakers .....		486.00
Janitorial Work .....		365.35
Auto Expense .....		313.88
Repairs .....		138.20
Telephone .....		123.06
Insurance .....		206.39
Taxes .....		48.00
Gas and Electric .....		53.76
Mission Supplies .....		219.91
Treasurer's Bond .....		33.75
Water .....		10.48
Printing .....		12.50
Medical Care, Miss Rozendal (Accident) .....		350.00
Painting .....		354.00
Medical Supplies .....		89.22
Fuel .....		191.42
Travel Expense .....		235.39
Miscellaneous .....		79.90
Transferred to Savings Account.....		10,737.00

Total Disbursements .....\$19,753.45

Balance December 31, 1952.....\$ 8,240.92

Government Bonds helds in Safe Deposit Box at Haledon

National Bank .....\$ 6,000.00

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Balance, January 1, 1952.....		\$ 80.80
Transferred from Check Account .....		10,737.00
Interest Received .....		81.79

Total .....\$10,899.59

Deposit on Parsonage ..... 2,000.00

\$ 8,899.59

Respectfully submitted,  
 ALBERT DE VRIES, *Treasurer*

## REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD

## Proposed Budget for 1954

Superintendent, Salary .....	\$ 3,600.00	
Children Allowance .....	525.00	
Martha Rosendal, Salary .....	2,750.00	
Wilhelmina Tuit, Salary .....	2,750.00	
Dr. Peter G. Berkhout .....	900.00	
Janitor's Service .....	450.00	
		<hr/>
		\$10,975.00
Auto Depreciation .....		600.00
Auto Maintenance including Insurance and License...		500.00
Fuel .....	400.00	
Gas, Light, Water, Telephone.....	250.00	
Supplies for Mission Work.....	300.00	
Repairs and Maintenance .....	1,000.00	
Insurance .....	200.00	
Medical Supplies and Expenses.....	150.00	
Miscellaneous .....	150.00	
Equipment .....	100.00	
		<hr/>
		2,550.00
		<hr/>
		\$14,625.00

## ESTIMATED INCOME

General Fund .....	\$14,125.00	
Offerings .....	200.00	
Donations .....	150.00	
Interest on Bonds .....	150.00	
		<hr/>
		\$14,625.00

The Paterson Hebrew Mission Board respectfully request a quota of 40 cents per family for the year 1954.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 3**

(Art. 76)

**THE SEAMEN'S HOME****RESPECTED BRETHREN:**

The present membership of this committee is the same as last year with exception there being one new member to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gerhardus Bos, who was called to higher service by His Lord. Membership of the Committee presently include Rev. T. Van Eerden, President; Adrian M. Visbeen, Secretary; and Frank Dykstra, appointees of Classis Hudson. Rev. John Holwerda, Peter Damsma, Treasurer and C. P. Van Genderen as representatives of Classis Hackensack.

Your board meets in regular session each month, together with Mr. Dahm, General Manager and Rev. Oussoren, the Spiritual Advisor. At these sessions regular reports of the personnel are received and reviewed, as well as conducting the regular business administration of the home. There have been many special and committee meetings in addition.

From the Business Manager's annual report we glean the following highlights; almost 1000 immigrants have been assisted in one way or another. These arrived on 29 more ships in port than in the previous year. All who asked are given help with the first consideration given to those of the household of faith. A total of 350 overnight guests were accommodated. Most of these are immigrants who must lay over for a day or so enroute. This number is up considerably because of the greater influx of immigrants. Special emphasis was laid on the spiritual care of the seamen. By the spoken Word and visual aid at 76 meetings 2426 men and women were reached. Considerably more were ministered to than in the previous year.

Dr. Oussoren our spiritual advisor, still divides his time between our institution and that of the Hoboken Church. Because of the growth and increase of the work in both places the brother is kept busy and pressed for time. He covers much of the entire New York port area calling on sick seamen in various hospitals. The personnel manager of the Holland American Line calls directly for such a need. He conducts regular meetings at the home giving brief messages whenever ships are in port. Much emphasis is laid on personal work.

A part time worker last summer was had in the person of Mr. Dick Bouma, a seminarian. This proved very helpful to the personnel. The Committee again requests Synod's consideration to provide such a

worker this summer. This request will be made through the regular channels.

There are many problems with which the Board must wrestle such as personnel, resident guests and financial. We are however able to handle these in stride.

The possibilities of work in this area of God's Kingdom is only limited by our vision and the human limitations of our personnel. We are striving for the goal of a full time worker for which our new budget makes provision.

In this connection we are looking into certain physical improvements of the property. This will provide for a chapel, a consultation room and better guest rooms. Here we will be limited by finances. The building with which we must begin is old and quite obsolete. Through the proper channels the Committee seeks to be relieved of the building at 310 Hudson Street, housing the Hoboken congregation. Our mandate is to operate the Seamen's Home and the funds are received for this purpose. Accordingly we should not be obliged to spend any part of these funds for the maintenance of this building.

Submitted herewith is a financial report and a proposed budget which we trust Synod will see fit to approve for the continuation of this phase of Kingdom work. Request is also made that Synod recommend the offerings and the prayers of the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

*Seamen's and Immigrants' Comm.*

ADRIAN M. VISBEEN, *Secretary.*

**Financial Report, January 1, 1952, to December 31, 1952**

Balance, January 1, 1952 Nil

**RECEIPTS**

Eastern Home Mission Board.....	\$10,177.46
Various Classes .....	8,060.30
Churches direct .....	199.88
Societies .....	48.16
Individuals .....	293.26
Holland America Line .....	1,000.00
Investments .....	506.00
Seamen's Home Operations .....	2,104.53
Refund Seminarian D. C. Bouma.....	15.00
Refund Executive Comm. Home Mission .....	331.15
(One-half of salary, board and traveling expense)	
(Seminarian D. C. Bouma)	
Total Receipts .....	\$22,735.74

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Salaries .....	\$ 7,301.56
Rent and traveling expense—workers.....	720.00
Bonus to workers for 1951.....	300.00
Allowance to Mr. and Mrs. C. Fisher *.....	1,300.00
Prospect Park National Bank .....	5,000.00
5 Series G Bonds of \$1,000.00 each	



Rent, Safe Deposit Box .....		4.50
Fuel .....		1,012.00
Light and Water .....		633.85
Insurance .....		297.76
Home Maintenance and Repair .....		1,074.84
Filing Cabinet — Treasurer .....		47.31
Auditing Expense .....		10.00
Committee Expense .....		190.05
Stationary, Printing, etc. ....		156.01
Advertising — Banner and Wachter .....		170.00
Gratuities .....		195.00
Settlement — Johanna A. Fritsch Claim .....		225.00
Refund — donation .....		5.26
Salary, board and traveling, Seminarian D. C. Bouma .....		662.30
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>		<b>\$19,305.44</b>
Total Receipts .....	\$22,785.74	
Total Disbursements .....	19,305.44	

Balance, December 31, 1952 ..... \$ 3,430.30

Respectfully submitted,

PETER DAMSMA, *Treasurer*

\* In order to bring this allowance in line with the payment of salaries it was necessary to pay \$100.00 additional this year.

Audited and found to be in order. Peter R. Steenland. 1-17-53

### PROPOSED BUDGET

SALARIES	Present	Proposed
	1953	1954
Manager (including house rent and car expense)....	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,020.00
Custodian (plus free rent and heat).....	2,500.00	2,500.00
Part time Spiritual work rendered by the Pastor of Hoboken Church, including auto and other expense .....	1,600.00	4,000.00
Maintenance and repair .....	1,000.00	1,150.00
Fuel .....	850.00	950.00
Gas, electric and water .....	550.00	625.00
Insurance .....	300.00	350.00
Allowance, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fisher.....	1,200.00	1,200.00
Alterations .....	00.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	500.00	500.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$11,065.00</b>	<b>\$17,295.00</b>

### ANTICIPATED INCOME

Interest on \$12,500.00 Government Bonds at 2½%.....	\$ 312.50
Dividends 80 shares Little Miami R. R. stock.....	344.00
Income from Home.....	2,000.00
Donations from Individuals and Societies.....	1,600.00
Collections from Churches .....	13,038.50
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$17,295.00</b>

ADRIAN M. VISBEEN, *Secretary*

P.S. Synod of 1942 decided to recommend the Seamen's Home for an offering per year, so that funds received from the Van Agthoven Estate may be kept intact, if possible, in the Endowment Fund, Act 1942, page 20.

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 4

(Art. 82)

**THE FORM FOR ERASURE OF MEMBERS  
BY BAPTISM**

## I. MANDATE

**T**HE Synod of 1948 (cf. Acts of Synod of 1948, pp. 35 ff.) adopted our committee's recommendation that there should be a special form for the excommunication of members by baptism and instructed our committee to draft such a form. It further indorsed our proposal that the present disciplinary procedure for delinquent baptized members should be reviewed and asked our committee to suggest a new mode of procedure.

A proposed form as well as rule for procedure were submitted to the Synod of 1950. This Synod, however, did not accept our proposed form nor did it discuss our proposed change of procedure. Instead, it gave us a new mandate, namely, "to rewrite it (the form) keeping in mind the following matters:

1. "Synod believes the covenant doctrine should be simply enunciated.
2. "The distinction between erasure and excommunication should be clearly marked.
3. "The form to be read should be clear and brief.
4. "The matter should be offered to the church at large for discussion. (Acts of Synod, 1950, p. 40)

Our committee believes that the form herewith submitted answers the requirements of points 1 and 3 above. We believe it sets forth the covenant doctrine as simply as that can be done in a brief form. It is as brief as is compatible with a form of such great moment; and, we hope, it is clear to all who hear it.

As to point 2, it is the opinion of our committee that the distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication" should be submitted as a special recommendation to Synod since its incorporation into a form would tend to make the form too academic and cumbersome. Our recommendation with regard to this point is therefore submitted under "II, B" of this report.

With reference to point 4, our committee is making plans to have the proposed form published in *The Banner* and *De Wachter* well in advance of the meeting of the Synod of 1953.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD

## A. The Proposed Form.

We recommend to Synod that the following form be used in our churches for the excommunication of delinquent baptized members:

It is known to you that we have more than once acquainted you with the grievous sin of a non-confessing member of our church, N. N., and our painful duty of excommunicating him/her unless he/she repents of his/her sin.

It was his/her blessed privilege and solemn duty, having come to years of understanding, to honor his/her God and to enjoy Him by walking in the way of the covenant which God raised up with him and sealed in holy baptism. His/her sin reveals that he/she has deliberately spurned the covenantal privileges and obligations. He/she has repeatedly turned a deaf ear to the loving admonitions extended to him/her by those over him/her in the Lord and by other members of the church.

To our great sorrow we can find no evidence of change for the better on his/her part. Faithfulness to God and our Lord Jesus Christ requires that we bear with him/her no longer, lest the purity of the church be endangered and God's holy name be blasphemed. Therefore, we, whom the Lord has set over his church at this place, being assembled with you in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, declare that we excommunicate N. N. from the church of the Lord, and that so long as he/she persists obstinately and impenitently in his/her sins, he/she is excluded from the fellowship of Christ, having forfeited all the spiritual blessings and benefits which God bestows on his church.

Let us in love that hopeth all things pray God that He may mercifully give him/her conversion unto salvation.

Let every one, particularly you who have reached the age of understanding, take warning by this and similar examples to fear the Lord. Let him diligently take heed to himself if he thinks he stands; lest he fall. Let him remain stedfast unto the end in true fellowship with the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ together with all believing Christians. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." (Mark 14:38).

Since it is God who works in us both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13), let us call upon his holy name with confession of sins, and with earnest supplication for our former member.

#### PRAYER

O righteous God, merciful Father, before Thy high majesty we blame ourselves for our sins, and acknowledge that we have justly deserved the sorrow and pain caused us by the excommunication of this our former fellow-member. If thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, we all would deserve to be banished from Thy presence on account of our great transgressions. O Lord, be gracious unto us for Christ's sake. Forgive us our trespasses for we heartily repent of them. Work

in our hearts an ever increasing measure of sorrow for them, that we, fearing Thy judgment which Thou bringest upon the wayward, may endeavor to please Thee. Grant that we may avoid all pollution of the world and of those who are excluded from the communion of the church in order that we may not make ourselves partakers of their sins. May he/she who is excommunicated become ashamed of his/her sins. Since Thou desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live, and since the bosom of the church is always open for those who return, kindle Thou, therefore, in our hearts a godly zeal that we with good Christian admonitions and example may seek to bring back this excommunicated person together with all those who through unbelief and recklessness of life go astray. Add Thy blessing to our admonitions that we may thereby have reason to rejoice again in them for whom we must now mourn, and that thus Thy Holy Name may be praised through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

B. The distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication."

We recommend that Synod adopt the following distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication":

1. That the term "erasure" (royeeren in Dutch, rayeren in French) be used in administrative sense for the removal of a name from the books of the church because of death, excommunication, change of membership, resignation, or departure without a contactual address.
2. That the term "excommunication" be used in a disciplinary sense for the exclusion from the fellowship of the church, the body of Christ, by Divine authority invested in the church whether the person excommunicated is a non-confessing or a confessing member.

*Explanatory Notes:*

1. At present the term "erasure" is employed for the excommunication of delinquent baptized members. This is done to give a certain distinction between the excommunication of a non-confessing and a confessing member without defining what that distinction is.
2. Our recommendation advises that the term "erasure" be used in an administrative sense only, and that the term "excommunication" be used for all exclusions from the church as the result of disciplinary action.
3. The more inclusive use of the term "excommunication" is recommended to emphasize the seriousness of this act also for non-confessing members.
4. If the seriousness of excommunication of non-confessing members is realized, our church will be faithful with all Christian patience in persuading our delinquents to be true to the blessed covenant of grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. We recommend that Synod adopt the following mode of disciplinary procedure for non-confessing members and thereby declare that the mode now in use be declared void. (cf. Schaver's *Church Order*, 1937, p. 90).

The procedure in the discipline and excommunication of baptized members shall consist of three announcements to the congregation. The first announcement shall be made to the congregation without mentioning the name of the erring member. The second announcement shall mention the name after the advice of classis has been obtained. The third announcement shall be a notification to the congregation that until the present moment all arduous and patient labors spent upon the erring member of our church seem futile, and that in case said member shows no signs of repentance his excommunication will take place at the designated time. Each announcement is to be accompanied with an urgent exhortation to the congregation to pray fervently for the erring member.

#### REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE NEW PROCEDURE

1. In bringing the disciplinary procedure for non-confessing members more in line with that for confessing members, the proposed change stresses the seriousness of all discipline and excommunications.
2. The procedure now in vogue does not allow sufficient time for "lay" discipline and admonition. The proposed procedure gives friends and fellow members adequate opportunity to share in the church's admonitions, and may in God's grace be instrumental in the conversion of a sinner.
3. The distinction between the excommunication of a non-confessing member and of a confessing member is not so great that it calls for two quite dissimilar methods of procedure.

REV. O. BREEN

DR. E. Y. MONSMA

DR. J. T. HOOGSTRA, *Secretary*

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 5

(Arts. 34, 151)

## "CREATION AND EVOLUTION"

*To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, 1953.*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

**Y**OUR Committee on "Creation and Evolution" wishes to thank you for the confidence you have placed in us by appointing us to this Committee to advise you in regard to the "Decisions" of the Ecumenical Synod of the Reformed Churches held in Amsterdam in 1949.

A Committee was appointed by the First Ecumenical Synod of Reformed Churches, held in Grand Rapids, 1946, to serve the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 with advice regarding the problem of "Creation and Evolution." This Synod adopted the following three guiding principles:

1. "The historical character of the revelation in Genesis 1 and 2 must be maintained without compromise. These two chapters offer no data to justify a symbolical or visionary interpretation or to treat them as a meaningful myth.

2. The true, completely trustworthy description by God of his work of creation is given to us in a humanly intelligible form, so that, although it does not constitute an adequate (i.e., full, exhaustive) representation of this divine act, it is sufficient for us to acknowledge and glorify him as our Creator.

3. In maintaining the historical character of Genesis 1 and 2 the Church rejects all evolutionary teaching which either rules out God entirely, or conceives of God as dependent upon the process of a so-called creative evolution, or allows for him to enter into the process only incidentally. The human form of revelation should prompt the Church to proceed with modesty and caution, and to refrain from making various kinds of pronouncements in the field of natural science."

This same Synod of 1949 asked the Synods of the participating Reformed Churches to study these three guiding principles earnestly. For that reason the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church of 1951 appointed your Committee for the study of these "decisions."

Your Committee advises Synod to accept these decisions. Through correspondence we have been informed that the Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa of 1952 has adopted these guiding principles. We have also tried to find out what the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands decided to do, but we have not been favored with any information.

Even though your Committee advises the adoption of the "decisions" we wish to add the following provisos and declarations:

1. Your Committee wishes our people to understand that these "decisions" are not to be put on par with our Forms of Unity; for example, the Articles of the Belgic Confession. They are merely guiding principles and directives. Nor are they on par with the infallible *ex cathedra* utterances of the Catholic Church. The "decisions" should be taken seriously; but we should not consider the person a heretic who deviates from them in the slightest degree.

2. The "decisions" speak of the "historical character" of Genesis 1 and 2. We consider that this terminology requires further elucidation. There are many differences among theologians in regard to the connotation of these words and also about the historical meaning of the words of Genesis 1 and 2.

3. Your Committee unreservedly condemns the mechanistic and interpretation type of evolution so rampant today and accepted by many scholars and scientists. We should gratefully accept the facts they give us but not their interpretations.

4. We wish to emphasize the difficulty of the problem of Creation and Evolution. On the one hand, Reformed theologians are constantly modifying their stand and re-evaluating their interpretation of Scripture, particularly of Genesis 1 and 2. In fact, we have been informed that material has been published or is ready to be published of such a nature that the whole subject of Creation and Evolution may have to be considered afresh. On the other hand, new discoveries are constantly being made in the field of natural science which make it necessary to alter our point of view; for example, in regard to the age of the earth and the length of the days of creation. Think but of the radio-active elements and the presence of Carbon 14.

Theologians and scientists, particularly Christian natural scientists, should make contributions to the solution of this problem. Should they not agree in their conclusions, they may have to suspend their judgment. History has proved very often that truth is the daughter of time.

Respectfully submitted,

DR. JOHN DE VRIES, *Chairman*

DR. PETER G. BERKHOUT, *Secretary*

REV. JOHN GRIFFIOEN

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 5-A

(Arts. 34, 151)

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**“CREATION AND EVOLUTION”**

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## ESTEEMED BRETHEN :

The undersigned respectfully urges Synod not to adopt the advice given by the committee on “Creation and Evolution” (Agenda Report No. 5, p. 21) which favors the acceptance of the three “guiding principles” adopted by the Ecumenical Synod of the Reformed Churches held in Amsterdam in 1949.

The first of these principles state: “The historical character of the revelation in Genesis 1 and 2 must be maintained without compromise. These two chapters offer no date to justify a symbolical or visionary interpretation or to treat them as a meaningful myth.” This principle endorses the historical interpretation of the creation account as opposed to the allegorical or mythical interpretation, and is by itself acceptable. But, as our synodical committee suggests, the term “historical” needs further elucidation. Such an elucidation was set forth by Principles 2 and 3 of the Ecumenical Synod but their statement of these principles is ambiguous and insufficient.

Principle 2 says: “The true, completely trustworthy description by God of his work of creation is given to us in a humanly intelligible form, so that although it does not constitute an adequate (i.e. full exhaustive) representation of this divine act, it is sufficient for us to acknowledge and glorify him as our creator.” My objections are the following:

1. To state that the Biblical account of creation “does not constitute an adequate representation of this divine act” may lead to a superficial interpretation of this important part of revelation. Your attention is called to the fact that the parenthetic explanation (i.e. full, exhaustive) is not found in the original Dutch but was added by the translator. If the words “not adequate” are to be used in relation to the creation account they should be carefully defined and delimited.

2. To state that the Biblical creation account “is sufficient for us to acknowledge and glorify him as *our* (italics mine, EYM) Creator” without stating anything further is insufficient and may lead to the opinion that the creation of man is the only significant fact related in these chapters.

The third principle states: “In maintaining the historical character of Genesis 1 and 2 the church rejects all evolutionary teaching which either rules out God entirely, or conceives of God as dependent upon the process of a so-called creative evolution, or allows for him to enter



into the process only incidentally. The human form of revelation should prompt the Church to proceed with modesty and caution, and to refrain from making various kinds of pronouncements in the field of natural science."

With reference to this statement I should like to make the following observations:

1. The statement first rejects all evolutionary teaching which rules God out entirely. This is, of course, so evident to anyone who accepts the Bible as inspired that it does not need reiteration.

2. It next rules out creative evolution upon which God is dependent or in which God enters the process only incidentally. Again, the acceptance of this part of the statement is self-evident; but it does not go far enough. What about creative evolution which is dependent upon God? This is apparently not ruled out and the way is left open for such an interpretation of the creation account. In my opinion, this is an important omission, which may affect not only our doctrine of creation as such, but also the closely related doctrines of the fall and redemption.

3. The final sentence of the third statement warns the church to "refrain from making various kinds of pronouncements in the field of natural science." Although it is true that the church should "proceed with modesty and caution" in making such pronouncements, it is equally true that with reference to the origin of this universe the church is duty bound to accept the Biblical account though it may differ from the generally accepted views in the field of natural science because it is the Bible and not natural science that tells us about the *origin* (creation) of things.

The provisos and declarations added by the committee on p. 22 of the Agenda enlarge rather than diminish the dangerous tendency implied in the three "guiding principles." A study of creation and evolution in the light of Scripture is indeed desirable. In this study guiding principles which lead in a confessional direction are extremely important so that the door is not left open for an evolutionistic interpretation of the creation account.

Humbly submitted,

EDWIN Y. MONSMA

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 6

(Arts. 69, 158)

**CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION***To the Synod of 1953.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—

**T**O give Synod first of all an idea of the work done at Nathanael Institute this past year, we hereby reproduce the report of the Rev. J. R. Rozendal for the year 1952. The Staff consists of the Rev. John R. Rozendal, Superintendent; Miss Edith Vander Meulen, full-time Bible teacher; assisted part-time by Mrs. S. Karsen and Miss Minnie Goosens. Everett Van Reken, M.D., conducts a medical clinic three times a week. Mrs. E. Walsh, R.N., serves as Nurse, part-time. Ralph Swierenga, Stewart Vander Woude and Raymond Rozendal assist part-time with the Boys Gym Classes, while Miss Kingma assists Miss Vander Meulen with the Girls Gym classes one evening a week.

Our activities consist of preaching, teaching, personal work and medical help for the Jewish people. The Jewish people who attend the Clinic on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and on Wednesday evenings attend a gospel meeting before the clinic is held. We conduct Bible Classes in connection with all our activities. We feel that our primary purpose is to bring the gospel to those who enter the Mission.

In July we held a Daily Vacation Bible School for three weeks. A total of 42 Jewish children were enrolled. The total attendance for the first week was 135, for the second week 115, and for the third week 148. All these were Jewish children.

Our annual picnic was held at Palos Park. Twenty-seven adult Jews and 35 children attended.

We now give a report on the number of meetings and the total attendance at these meetings during 1952:

At 42 Gospel services on Saturday evenings a total of 263 Jews attended. 141 Gospel meetings were held before the Clinics at which a total of 724 Jews attended. 972 patients were given medical help at the Clinic. At the Girls' sewing and Bible Classes, held on Tuesday and Friday afternoons the total attendance was 1,477 at 80 meetings. Gym Classes and Bible were held for High School girls on Thursday evenings. At 24 meetings a total of 199 attended. The kindergarten meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 A.M. till noon. Miss E. Vander Meulen has charge of this class. At 76 meetings a total of 684 Jewish children attended. The parents bring

them and call for them after the class. The senior Girls' Club meets on Thursday afternoon, twice a month. At 22 meetings a total of 225 attended. One of their projects was the making of dolls for our Indian Mission children at Rehoboth. Also on Thursday afternoons the Junior Girls' Club meets. Mrs. S. Karsen has charge of this class. At 8 meetings a total of 50 were present. Ladies Bible classes were held on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. In the afternoon at 42 meetings a total of 417 Jewish ladies attended. In the evening at 43 meetings a total of 505 Jewish mothers attended. Bible classes were held for grammar school boys on Friday afternoons. At 39 meetings a total of 300 Jewish boys attended. On Monday evenings we have Bible classes and Gym for College boys. At 36 meetings a total of 275 Jewish young men attended. On Wednesday evenings we have Bible Classes and Gym for High School boys. At 28 meetings a total of 248 Jewish boys attended. These classes were conducted by the Superintendent.

A total of 332 visits were made to the Jews in their homes and shops. On the whole we are received kindly by the Jewish people. Occasionally we meet some who will have nothing to do with the gospel.

Our Christmas program for the younger children was held on Monday evening, December 22, at the Mission. The Jewish children presented the entire program, consisting of recitations, songs and dialogues about the birth of Jesus Christ. The Ladies Bible Class also sang Christmas songs. A total of 33 numbers were presented on the program. 46 Jewish children and 55 adults, many of them parents of the children, attended. On Tuesday evening, December 23, we held our Christmas service for the Young People of High School and College age. 38 Jewish young people attended. And so we have labored throughout the year, preaching and teaching the Gospel to many Jews, both young and old. May the Holy Spirit apply this Word to their hearts so that they may accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

We are grateful to the Rev. Rozendal for furnishing us with the above information.

In regard to Mr. Huisjen, our field missionary, we can report that he has been working mainly in Grand Rapids to activate and guide Jewish Mission work by the churches there. He has also made preliminary visits to several Jewish families in Kalamazoo, Mich., with a view to more permanent work later on in cooperation with the churches there. Muskegon, Michigan, is also on his list for a preliminary survey and subsequent follow-up work. Since it is difficult for the Chicago Jewish Mission Board to supervise work in other communities, we requested last year's Synod to place the work of our Field Missionary under the General Home Missions Committee. Synod referred our Overture, endorsed by Classis Chicago North, to the

Study Committee for re-alignment of Missions and Church Extension. We trust that when this committee reports, our Overture will have the full attention of Synod.

A special word of appreciation is due at this time to Mr. George Ottenhoff who for more than a quarter of a century has so ably and faithfully served our church as Treasurer of the Chicago Jewish Mission Board. He has been a tower of strength in good times and in times of depression and discouragement. More than once he has helped out with his personal funds in order that salaries, etc., might be paid on time. As he retires at this time, we wish for him many more years of usefulness and happiness in the service of the Lord.

At present your Board consists of the following members: Rev. E. L. Haan, President; Rev. G. Zylstra; Rev. A. De Kruyter; Rev. H. J. Triezenberg, Secretary; Mr. Peter Euwema, Treasurer; Mr. Geo. De Boer. The financial report of our Treasurer as well as the report of the Auditor and the proposed Budget for 1954 as approved by Classis Chicago North will be attached to this report. Speaking of finances, we can report that our position at this time is much more favorable than it has been for some time. This is mainly due to the fact that the sale of the Jansma estate was finally completed and brought into our treasury the sum of \$11,822.34 on November 11, 1952. Of this money we have invested \$10,500.00 (ten thousand, five hundred dollars) in the Tri-city Savings and Loans Association, with the approval of Classis. We hope that Synod will see that it is good financial policy to keep a sizeable reserve to serve as cushion against possible future depression and financial scarcity. We are still trying to obtain a full-time nurse and therefore renew our request, indorsed by Classis Chicago North, for a quota of 75 cents per family for our Chicago Jewish Mission work.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Nathanael Institute  
and Chicago Jewish Mission

HENRY J. TRIEZENBERG, *Secretary*

P.S. Classis Chicago North, in its session of January 21, 1953, approved this report and directed the Stated Clerk to send it on to Synod.

H. J. Triezenberg, S.C.

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

From January 1st, 1952, to December 31st, 1952

**RECEIPTS**

Operating:—

Balance on hand January 1, 1952.....		\$ 547.00
Synodical Treasurer .....	23,020.00	
Donations and collections .....	863.26	

Medical Department .....	2,008.99	25,892.25
Total Operating Income .....		\$26,439.25
Non-Operating:		
Withholding tax on employees .....	\$ 1,234.25	
Social Security .....	44.61	
Loan from Christmas Fund.....	750.00	
Jansma Estate and Sale of Property.....	11,822.34	
Miscellaneous Income .....	3.05	13,854.25
TOTAL.....		\$40,293.50

## DISBURSEMENTS

Operating:		
Salaries .....	\$15,808.58	
Huisjen, Rent Allowance.....	600.00	
Huisjen, Auto Allowance.....	300.00	
Vander Meulen, Rent Allowance.....	349.20	
Rozendal, Auto Allowance .....	300.00	
License .....	36.00	
Phone .....	136.22	
Gas and Electric.....	217.80	
Medicine for Clinic.....	803.64	
Building Repair.....	448.14	
Cleaning .....	52.28	
Fuel .....	779.75	
Printing and <i>Shepherd's Voice</i> .....	1,050.44	
Class Material.....	267.59	
Insurance Premium .....	287.03	
Postage .....	141.66	
Traveling Expense .....	86.85	
Janitor Supplies.....	94.70	
Water Tax .....	18.81	
Interest .....	170.00	
Miscellaneous .....	7.65	
		\$21,961.90
Non-Operating:		
Withholding Tax on Employees.....	1,247.70	
Real Estate Tax.....	234.40	
Loan Repaid .....	3,750.00	
Jansma Estate Fees and Costs.....	665.00	
Cash from Jansma Estate Investe.....	10,500.00	16,397.10
Total Disbursements.....		\$38,359.00
Total Receipts .....	\$40,293.50	
Total Disbursements .....	38,359.00	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 1,934.50	

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## ASSETS

Cash on hand.....	\$ 1,934.50
Deposited in Tri-City Savings & Loan Association.....	10,500.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$12,434.50</b>

Institutional Building: "Nathanael Institute"  
Parsonage for Minister and family.  
Both clear of indebtedness.

LIABILITIES: None

January 6th, 1953.

Chicago Jewish Mission of the  
Christian Reformed Church.

This is to certify that I have this day examined the books of the Treasurer for the Nathanael Institute of the Christian Reformed Church. My examination reveals that the records are in excellent condition and that the book balance as of December 31st, 1952, in the amount of \$1,934.50 coincides with the bank balance. My audit also reveals that a deposit has been made with the Tri-City Savings and Loan Association in the amount of \$10,500.00.

Humbly submitted,

GEORGE DE BOER.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1954

Pastor's Salary .....	\$ 3,600.00
Pastor's Car Allowance.....	400.00
Pastor's Child Allowance.....	350.00
Field Worker's Salary.....	3,300.00
Field Worker's Car Allowance.....	400.00
Field Worker's Rent Allowance.....	700.00
Lady Worker's Salary.....	2,600.00
Lady Worker's Rent Allowance.....	500.00
Doctor's Salary .....	2,500.00
Nurse's Salary \$1.75 per hour (estimated).....	1,500.00
Office Clerk's Salary \$1.25 per hour (estimated).....	600.00
Janitor's Salary .....	2,250.00
Part-time Workers .....	1,000.00
Gas, Electric and Fuel.....	1,100.00
Insurance and License.....	400.00
Repairing and Decorating.....	500.00
Medical Supplies and Medicine.....	800.00
Traveling Expense .....	100.00
Class and Janitor Supplies.....	350.00
Printing and <i>Shepherd's Voice</i> .....	1,500.00
Phone .....	150.00
Postage .....	150.00
General Office Expense.....	300.00
Miscellaneous .....	150.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$25,200.00</b>

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 7**

(Art. 158)

**WHAT CONSTITUTES A FAMILY?**

*To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church  
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The committee appointed to answer the overture of Classis Hackensack, "To clarify the decision of the Synod of 1928 regarding What Constitutes a Family," herewith presents its report:

A—The first reason given in the overture of Hackensack for this request for clarification is that "The statement under point 2 (Church Order on this subject), 'A family wherein husband or wife by confession of faith, belongs to the congregation,' is subject to different interpretations." Hence, "If a young couple is married and has no children, and only one of the couple belongs to the Church, does this constitute a family?"

In response to this question your committee deems the statement of our Church Order sufficiently clear to answer this. We believe that the conception of a family underlying the rules of the Church Order is that "A family is a living unit consisting of a husband and wife; a parent or parents together with a child or children." Accordingly, a most natural interpretation of point 2 in our Church Order is that this does constitute a family. Moreover, the thought that a natural family should also be counted an ecclesiastical family where at least one is a confessing member receives Scriptural sanction in I Cor. 7:14, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean, but now they are holy." Though it is true that the question explicitly states that the young couple has no children, the apostle supports his contention concerning the husband-wife relationship by showing its effect upon the children that are or will be born.

Moreover, the objection of the overture that according to this arrangement, "It would be possible to have one family counted in two churches at the same time," would be a rare exception. At least the possibility of having a family counted in two Christian Reformed churches at the same time is very remote. Conceivably it would consist of newly-wedded couples who have not agreed as to which church they will attend. However, this is generally of such a temporary nature which will or should be corrected as soon as possible that a consistory should use its own discretion.

B—A second reason given for this request for clarification is that point 3, "A family wherein a widow is the acting head," also could stand clarification. For instance, "Does a widow without children constitute a family, or is she an individual?" Our response is that the most evident interpretation of the statement in the Church Order is that where there is no family (a living unit of two or more), the widow is to be regarded as an individual.

A related question asked in the overture, "Does a widow with a son or daughter who has made confession of faith constitute a family, or are they two individuals?" We respond that it is the evident interpretation of the Church Order that as long as they continue to live together in a family relationship of mother and son or mother and daughter, they are to be regarded as a family.

C—*Recommendations:*

1—Though we agree most heartily with the overture that "There should be uniformity of practice among our churches with respect to these matters, since our denominational quotas are established on the basis of this count," your committee recommends that Synod answer Classis Hackensack that the existing rules are sufficiently clear and there is no present need for changing these regulations.

2—In view of a possible lack of uniformity in "understanding or practice" your committee recommends that Synod include an auxiliary question in the rules for Church Visiting, in Part I under question 16 to read, "Have you counted your families according to the present Synodical rules as found in the Church Order?"

Humbly Submitted,

REV. JOHN GUICHELAAR  
REV. GEORGE HOLWERDA  
R. POOL



## SUPPLEMENT NO. 8

(Arts. 69, 125)

## THE CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

*To the Synod of 1953.*

## ESTEEMED BRETHEN:

In submitting this annual report to your honorable body your Chaplain Committee is apprehensive that our Christian Reformed Church has fallen short and failed to meet its due share of a common responsibility and to discharge its proper proportion of a united task placed upon the churches of the United States of America today.

What then, is the situation as we must face it today?

Our country is in war, both hot and cold. Thousands upon thousands of its sons and some of its daughters as well, are being called and recalled into military service. Shall we deny, or ignore the fact, that this creates a vast need for faithful, spiritual care by devoted Ministers of the Word and Shepherds of the flock of Christ? Other Protestant denominations, which in point of doctrinal soundness and close adherence to the Truth as contained in Holy Scriptures we may esteem less highly than ourselves, have surpassed us in answering the challenge of the Chaplaincy.

The toll of the dead and dying, the disabled, the prisoners of war and the missing is mounting week by week. Our own homes, churches and communities are contributing their members, mostly in the critical days of their youth, to face the perils and the temptations in training camps, battlefields, in zones of occupations and in enemy prison compounds. Of necessity our nation and our people are involved in large scale mobilization and armament operations which requires man-power as well as material.

While all this is coming to pass, our Christian Reformed Church, so alive and active in other Church and Kingdom work, has *not met its quota for the Chaplaincy!*

*Procurement.*

The major responsibility for providing the armed forces with an adequate number of qualified chaplains rests with the churches by whom they are trained and ordained, and to which they continue to belong while in the service of the chaplaincy. This is an important principle recognized by our government and by the three departments of our National Defense. All three however, the Army, Navy and Air Force, are ready to assist the churches at any point in their procurement programs and efforts. They set the standards for applications and commissions as to age-limits and quotas; ministerial status and quali-

cations, etc. The churches are asked to do their part by providing the personnel from their own ministerial ranks. It is understandable that where the churches fail to fill the need, there the Chief of Chaplains Offices are constrained to enter the field of procurement with measures of their own. Or they make shifts in quota-assignments whereby deficiencies in denominational quotas are given to other denominations able and willing to provide additional chaplains above their quotas. Such substitution might well be "in kind," spiritually speaking, but it might also mean the commissioning of another Unitarian Chaplain in the place of a Christian Reformed, while the former now has a total of ten in the four services, while we have only two—one in the Army, one in the Veteran Administration, and none in the Navy and the Air Force. How does that proportion appear in the sight of our God?

Without encumbering this report with separate figures for each department, variable as they are under fluctuating needs, we present only the Personnel Status and Requirements of the Army for the Calendar Year 1953:

1) Gains in 1952.....	239
2) Active Duty:	
Authorized (approximately) .....	1600
On Active Duty January 1.....	1413
Shortage .....	187
3) National Guard, U. S.:	
Authorized .....	531
Assigned .....	285
Shortage .....	246
4) Chaplains on Short Tour Duty.....	45
5) Auxiliary Chaplains .....	64
6) Anticipated Requirements for 1953:	
Anticipated Losses for 1953.....	201
Shortage .....	187
Total anticipated requirements for 1953.....	388
(149 more than gains last year).	

In the event of a global war and total mobilization many more chaplains would be required by all three departments of our National Defense.

In determining the quota for each denomination the Army takes as a basis the church population in the United States which is computed at 105,344,109. This total divided by the number of authorized chaplains (in this case 1600), results in a ratio of one chaplain to each 65,480 church members. This authorizes an equitable number of chaplains for all denominations based on the numerical strength of their constituency and presumably the number of their constituency in the Army.

In view of the difficulty in procuring the authorized number of chaplains (there are more denominations that fall short than there are that exceed present quotas), special plans and programs are being put into operation for providing sound and systematic procurement of

qualified chaplains for active duty, and for reserved. The policy envisions preparatory training and prior commitment by prospective applicants for the chaplaincy while still in the Seminary. Each of the three departments has its own program, at least for the present. The denominational indorsing agencies have expressed the wish that they be unified into one basic uniform program for the good of all.

Your Committee is making personal contacts with our Seminarians to interest those whom it deems qualified for the chaplaincy. Previous pastoral experience is no longer a requirement. A conditional ecclesiastical certification by the denominational indorsing agency is necessary. The candidate for this probationary Chaplains' Program of the Department of the Army must agree to participate in limited, active duty for summer training, for which pay and allowance is given; upon graduation and ordination to accept a commission as Second Lieutenant, to serve a minimum period of two full years, if the Army requires his service. In our report to the Synod of 1952, we made mention of a number of prospects. We were hopeful that by the time Synod met we would have at least one in the Navy and one in the Air Force besides our two Chaplains in the Army (Chaplain Dick J. Oostenink) and in the Veteran Administration (Chaplain Elton J. Holtrop). However, missionary service in the Foreign Field claimed the one and a pastorage in the United States the other. It is not for us to judge in such matters which involve a number of factors and principally a prayerful consideration with deep searchings of heart to know and to do the will of God.

We do esteem the chaplaincy worthy of more special consideration and recognition of priority rating than it has been accorded since the end of War II and the new Korean War. The Chaplaincy, though a specialized ministry, largely among young men, is in very deed a part of the great mission field of the world, and of the harvest concerning which our Lord has said that it is white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. It is also embraced in Christ's comprehensive mission mandate and is thereby essentially on a par with Foreign and Home Missions. It offers great opportunities for extensive and intensive evangelism through preaching the Gospel and personal counseling; for tending and feeding the flock of Christ in critical years of widespread, dangerous dispersion; for conserving the future of the church and for building and sustaining the morale of those who are called to leave their homes in defense of their, and our, country.

The shortage of ministers in most churches, the many and manifold opportunities to serve in the regular ministry, in the mission fields, and other branches of specialized ministry, have doubtless caused many who are eligible and qualified for the chaplaincy to pass it up. Do the churches, and do the ministers appreciate that we still have a government which welcomes and desires a chaplaincy? That a field is pre-

sented of vast scope and stupendous need for which the government provides the salary, moving expenses, housing, Chapel and equipment, and the churches are requested to provide only the men to occupy the field? Whose is the responsibility if that field is left partly unmanned or unoccupied? As large classes are coming from our Seminary, we are hopeful that for our Christian Reformed Church the situation will change. We are expecting to procure additions of at least two or three for the chaplaincy out of the next class of graduates.

*Chaplain Dick J. Oostenink, Jr.* has completed his rotation assignment to shore-duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was given another assignment for overseas duty, this time to Germany. His family, recently blessed with an addition, will follow him, D. V., by the time that Synod meets, or in late summer. Chaplain Oostenink had a large order and carried a heavy day-by-day and weekly schedule due to frequent turn-over at Fort Dix as a training center, and to the shortage of chaplains at the post. He has kept his contacts with our churches in the East by preaching in the pulpits and helping to supply Home Mission Stations in Philadelphia and Wanamassa on occasions. He has also shown his Korean War pictures in many of our churches. We bespeak the prayers of our churches for him and his family.

*Chaplain Elton J. Holtrop* is serving with a commendable zeal and devotion in ministering to over a thousand Protestant patients at the large Veterans Administration Hospital at Battle Creek, Michigan. Besides regular Sunday preaching services which are carried by Radio to the shut-ins, and a Sunday afternoon Bible Class, he conducts morning devotions on week days and makes innumerable bedside and group calls. The spiritual warmth of his personality, radiating Christ, the Healer and Saviour, as well as his discerning tact in dealing with needy souls, make him eminently fitted for this service of mercy and love. He and Mrs. Holtrop maintain close contact with our Church through active membership in the local Christian Reformed Church and supply services in vacant churches as time permits. They have also given part of their furlough-time in visiting our Servicemen in Camps. They too deserve a place in our denominational interest and prayers.

#### *The General Commission.*

This Commission on Chaplains, representing 32 Protestant Denominations, continues in its forty-fifth year to promote the interests of the Chaplaincy in close liaison and co-operation with the Chief of Chaplains' Corps. The three Chiefs are honorary and advisory members of the Commission. They either meet in person, or through report by their representatives at the semi-annual meeting with the Commission in April, and the annual meeting in October. This

mutual tie-up and conference between Protestant denominational representatives and the Military Chaplaincy heads is of benefit to both in promoting the moral and spiritual welfare of those in the service, and of the Chaplains themselves as well. It also gives more leverage in securing action in Congress, or on Departmental and Cabinet level, in furthering the chaplaincy.

The Commission publishes "THE LINK," a monthly Servicemen and womens' Magazine, which is distributed free and more specifically designed for use by the "UNITED PROTESTANT FELLOWSHIP." The U P F is informally organized, replacing the "Christian Servicemen's League" of the Second World War. Total edition of "THE LINK" is now about 110,000 copies per month. It constitutes the main item in the budget of the Commission.

For chaplains the Commission is publishing another monthly magazine, "THE CHAPLAIN" which is sent to Chaplains and subscribers with a mailing list of about a tenth of that of The Link. The Director of the Commission has acted as Editor of both papers with the aid of editorial associates and a secretarial staff. At the October meeting of the General Commission the Director, Thomas A. Rymer, after seven and a half years of wholehearted and devoted service, tendered his resignation which was regretfully accepted. To date his successor has not been appointed and Mr. Rymer has consented to continue in office in the interim.

As in former years some 60 Preaching Missions were conducted in various military installations throughout the country during the months of January, February and March. A number of denominational representatives conducted Chaplains' Retreats and Visitation overseas and in our own country. Dr. Stewart M. Robinson, Chairman of the General Commission, made an extensive personal visitation and inspection tour in behalf of the Commission. From his report on his visit around the world, we cull a few excerpts:

"Our military chaplains constitute the most important body of clergy in the nation's life. They are so numerous that they make up a large body of men, numerically. Their parishes are formed out of men and women, mostly young, together with children, mostly small, who are a most important element in the body—social, politic and spiritual. One million of these young people move into and out from uniformed national service annually.

"Also, the lives they live are filled with special stresses and tensions which call forth the need of God, in home and neighborhood, on duty, and in danger and ennui.

"The ministry they encounter will thus introduce them to religion, and the kind of pastoral care they receive will become the yard-stick for all future experiences, for weal or woe.

"This summer I saw the greater part of that portion of our armed forces' chaplains who are overseas, in the Army, Navy and Air Force. We ought

to be proud of them. We ought to serve their interest and pray for their welfare and usefulness.

"In combat they have continued the high tradition of steadfastness which often marked our chaplains. Behind the lines they are faced with an elaborate pastoral responsibility fully comparable to that of the most highly organized civilian churches and parishes. Thanks to the vision of the government, chapel facilities with all the proper appurtenances are rising around the world. It is a visible illustration of the place of religion in our national thinking, and the way we are willing to spend for its support. This spending is some of the best we do. Like our colonial forefathers, we do not go wrong in building a church in the center of the community. This building program is going forward. I should like to see it hastened even more strenuously."

On the matter of chaplaincy supply, Dr. Robinson, a Presbyterian and himself a Chaplain who served in the first world war, has this to say:

"More chaplains are needed because the departments will gladly make room for more places, as the churches can find men to fill them. The real problem is to find the men. The fact is, the civilian requirements of our country make it difficult to spare more than a certain quota, and more than that quota is really needed. The seminaries must take the chaplaincy into consideration more seriously. Some pay only lip-service to the need. Young clergymen who by virtue of their calling escape the draft by law will find the beginning of their pastoral work extremely embarrassing among their contemporaries who go into the service, and among the parents of young men the age of these young clergy, who listen to their words and wonder why their sons have to go while these healthy youngsters can stay at home. Two or three years in the chaplaincy is the best post-graduate school there is for practically useful and sympathetic ministry, especially to youth.

"The current ROTC program for ministerial students is an excellent step in the right direction. Under it, equipped with a basic commission, the unordained clerical student can have field experience when not attending classes, and become oriented in the chaplaincy before he comes to the gate of its service."

#### *Finances.*

The Total Estimated Expenditures adopted by the Commission as its Budget for the year 1953 is \$118,875.00. The formula for determining quotas is the ratio of the number of chaplains of each denomination on active duty as of July 1 of the previous year to the total number of chaplains. The amount of the quota per chaplain for this year is \$70.00, i.e. \$140.00 for our denomination. Your Committee has again refunded the interest on bonds to the Washington, D. C. Christian Reformed Church to be used in connection with their services in providing a spiritual home to our servicemen within and in the vicinity of the Capitol City.

The Treasurer will append his financial report duly audited. No additional offerings for the CHAPLAIN FUND by our churches are needed at this time.

Your Committee will present its recommendations in regard to the six-year membership-tenure rule to the Stated Clerk of Synod by the June 1 prescribed date, D. V.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Chaplain Committee:*

HAROLD DEKKER, *Chairman*

JOHN M. VAN DE KIEFT, *Secretary*

EDWARD BOEVE, *Treasurer*

HENRY R. VAN TIL

FREDERICK W. VAN HOUTEN

**GENTLEMEN:**

Pursuant to your request, I have examined the books of your Treasurer, Rev. E. Boeve, for the fiscal year February 21, 1952, to February 28, 1953.

The cash balance on hand as of February 28, 1953, has been verified with the amount shown on the bank statement, and the bonds belonging to this fund have been examined.

In my opinion the statement herewith presented represents fairly the receipts and disbursements of your fund for the fiscal year as above named.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY J. DRENTH.

**CHAPLAIN FUND**

of the

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

February 21, 1952, to February 28, 1953

Balance on hand, February 21, 1952.....\$1,029.69

**RECEIPTS**

**Christian Reformed Church Contributions:**

Lee Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan.....	\$ 117.33
Goshen, Indiana .....	18.85
Rehoboth, New Mexico .....	10.00
Ripon, California .....	174.88
Calvin, McGain, Michigan .....	23.32
Fremont II, Michigan .....	25.00
Grand Haven I, Michigan .....	50.00
Allen Ave., Muskegon, Michigan .....	88.08
Alamosa, Colorado .....	28.21
Cadillac, Michigan .....	31.09
Godwin Heights, Grand Rapids, Mich.....	62.05
Moline, Michigan .....	86.15
Trinity, Jenison, Michigan .....	42.41

Total Church Contributions ..... \$ 757.37

Interests on Bonds — Washington, D.C. Church ..... 120.00

Total Receipts ..... 877.37

1,907.06

DISBURSEMENTS

Traveling Expenses:

Rev. E. Boeve .....	30.00	
Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft .....	73.40	
Rev. H. Dekker .....	10.00	
<b>Total Traveling Expenses .....</b>	<b>113.40</b>	
Secretarial Expense .....	10.00	
Auditing Expense .....	17.50	
General Commission on Chaplains .....	153.44	
Banner Subscriptions and Tracts .....	21.00	
Interest Refund — Washington, D.C. Church .....	240.00	
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>		<b>555.34</b>

CASH ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 1953 ..... 1,351.72

OTHER ASSETS OF THE CHAPLAIN FUND

- Bonds — Christian Reformed Church Washington, D.C.
  - Investment \$4,000.00 — 3% Interest — Due December 1, 1964.
- United States Savings Bonds — Series "F"
  - Investment \$2,405.00 — Maturity Value \$3,250.00
  - Purchased February, 1946.



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 8-A**

(Arts. 69. 125)

**CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

- 1) Re procurement your Chaplain Committee is pleased to report progress.

Two of our Calvin College pre-Sem graduates, nl. Marvin R. and Milton R. Dornbos, twin brothers, members of National Guard Unit, are applying for Reserve Commission in the U. S. Army Chaplaincy. After completing their three year Seminary course, and their special training at the Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, New York, during vacation periods, and after receiving their ordination, they will be commissioned and become subject for appointment to active duty, D. V.

The Chaplain Committee is giving them the required type of ecclesiastical endorsement for this basic reserve commissioning in the Army Chaplaincy.

Two of our Calvin Seminary graduates of this year have applied for commissioning with a view to immediate active-duty-service.

Adrian Van Andel (home church, Ripon, Calif.), a Veteran with 26 months service in the Navy in World War II, has applied, and been given ecclesiastical endorsement for commissioning into the Navy Chaplaincy.

Albert Walma (home church, Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids), also a Veteran, who served with the Air Force, has applied for a Chaplain's commission. Part of his time in the service he was assistant to the Chaplain and thus learned first hand to see and appreciate the importance and the need of the chaplaincy. He feels constrained to re-enter the service in the Air Corps as an ordained minister of the Gospel and a fully commissioned Officer-Chaplain in the service of his Lord and of his country.

- 2) Re the membership of the Committee and its nominations we submit the following:

Membership as presently constituted:

**HAROLD DEKKER**—Chairman of the Chaplain Committee and Alternate Representative on "The General Commission for Chaplains"—filled three years term and eligible for re-appointment by Synod.

**JOHN M. VANDE KIEFT**—Secretary and Primus Representative on The General Commission since 1941. Retiring.

EDWARD BOEVE—Treasurer of the Committee since 1942. Retiring.

H. R. VAN TIL—first appointed in 1951. One more year to serve.

F. W. VAN HOUTEN—appointed in 1952. Two more years to serve.

Nominations have been presented to the Committee on Appointments.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chaplain Committee*

HAROLD DEKKER

J. M. VANDE KIEFT

H. R. VAN TIL

EDWARD BOEVE

F. W. VAN HOUTEN

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 9**

(Art. 84)

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY****ESTEEMED BRETHEN :**

To this organization our churches in Canada are asked to contribute rather than to the American Bible Society, as may readily be understood. Of this Bible Society there are auxiliaries throughout the Dominion, of which the New Brunswick Bible Society is the oldest, having been founded in 1819. The greater part of Ontario is the territory of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

The present organization will be 150 years old in 1954, having been founded in London for the sole purpose of encouraging "a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment." We are told that by 1804 parts of the Bible had been translated into only seventy-two languages, and the entire distribution of the Bible did not exceed 20,000 copies a year. Today the Scriptures, in whole or in part, have been translated into nearly 1100 languages and dialects and their circulation runs into many millions of copies. The British and Foreign Bible Society alone distributes over ten million copies annually. On an average, translations into ten new languages are added each year.

The Society began its service in Canada in the year of its birth, 1804, with a translation of Mark's Gospel in the language of the Mohawk Indians. Since then twenty-two versions in the languages of Canadian Indians and Eskimos have been printed, as well as one hundred and ten translations for use among non-English speaking people in Canada.

New translations are generally prepared by missionaries in the field, the Society giving its advice and guidance where needed and may even provide financial support for the translators. The completed and approved manuscript is printed and this version becomes available for all churches and missions that are interested. Bibles are sent to the missionaries free of charge with the understanding that he shall sell them at a price that seems just to him, considering the ability of the people to pay. Whatever is realized from such sale is remitted to the Bible Society and in this way approximately 40% of the cost of production is realized. It is clear why this and any other Bible Society needs financial support to carry on its program.

Besides all this, the Society supports over 1000 colporteurs, who are engaged in the distribution of the Bible, 20 of them being active in Canada. Many of the editions they distribute are "diglot" versions, containing English and some foreign tongue side by side. There is

an English-Dutch edition of the New Testament, much in use among our immigrants.

Scriptures printed in raised type have been distributed by the Society in over forty languages. Blind people who are destitute are given copies without charge and institutions for the blind receive such Bibles at a very low cost.

The British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada is controlled by a Board of which Mr. Thos. G. Rogers is the president, and the general secretary Rev. W. H. Hudspeth. The Dominion Headquarters is located at 122 Bloor St., W. Toronto. Canada is divided into thirteen districts each with its own organization.

In 1954 the sesquicentennial is to be observed with a view to which the Upper Canada Bible Society, which is virtually synonymous with Ontario, hopes to raise \$250,000 in each of the three years 1952, '53 and '54. Comparatively little has been contributed to the support of the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society by our churches thus far.

Practically all Protestant Churches support this work and can do so freely since the purpose of the Society prevents it from becoming "sectarian." It prints Bibles without comment, and we can therefore safely commend this cause to our churches.

REV. C. WITT

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 10

(Arts. 76, 96)

## SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON

## ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Macedonian calls for additional ministerial laborers constitute the outstanding feature in the reports to your Committee for South America and Ceylon. They present a challenge for the prayers and efforts of our denomination in meeting the opportunities of these developing fields of labor.

I. *Ceylon.*

We report a cablegram from the Van Ens Missionaries, dated Nov. 22, 1952, and reading as follows: "Receiving grand reception by Colombo saints." In Colombo they were subsequently inducted into the service of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon, at a Service of Induction held at the Dutch Reformed Church of Wolvendaal, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1952, when their credentials were examined and approved.

It is customary that all or most of the ministers are transferred annually among the local congregations of the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon. But such transfer will occasion no change in the letters of call of the Reverends Van Ens, because each of these letters provides that the brother concerned is "to be loaned as minister to the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon." These letters of call were countersigned by your Committee, and signed respectively for the Rev. Clarence Van Ens by his calling Church, the Prospect Street Chr. Ref. Church of Passaic, New Jersey, and for Candidate John Van Ens by his calling church, the First Chr. Ref. Church of Edgerton, Minnesota. Your Committee is deeply grateful to these calling and supporting churches for their cooperation and generosity.

The brethren Van Ens are preaching from the Heidelberg Catechism every Sunday, and have been influential that the other ministers of the General Consistory do so also, with renewed faithfulness. Thus greater regularity is maintained in proclaiming the great truths of the infallible Word of God.

Furthermore, the Van Ens brothers and their wives are showing commendable zeal in a vast number of church-related activities. They are also undertaking the study of the Singhalese language, meeting twice weekly under the able leadership of the Reformed Catechist, Mr. Samuel Mendis, who is supported by the Rus family of Pella, Iowa, and is engaged in Singhalese missionary work. Our missionaries plan to promote the distribution of Christian literature of Reformed character, for which

a large gift was received from an anonymous donor. Tracts of our Back to God Hour are also used for this purpose.

The brethren Van Ens report that "the ministers who are interested in the progress of the Reformed Faith on the Island sense the need for additional ministers from the Christian Reformed Church in the near future," and they stress the "need for financing such additional ministers to Ceylon." They believe that "another Macedonian call from the Church in Ceylon" is coming and they pray that the Lord may "prepare the Chr. Ref. Church" for it. But the Chr. Ref. Church must await official action on this score from the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon. In the light of both the recent reports of the Reverends Van Ens and of the earlier reports of the Rev. John O. Schuring, your Committee is sympathetic toward the indicated need for additional ministers from the Chr. Ref. Church in this strategic island of the Orient.

## *II. Argentina.*

In his reports the Rev. Jerry Pott has reemphasized the official appeal of Classis Buenos Aires for additional ministerial help. In harmony with the Synodical approval in 1944 of Classis Buenos Aires' request for another ordained man, your Committee has made efforts from time to time to seek a man for this work. The man who had been preparing for this field for several years could not go last summer for reasons of health and we had a similar experience some years earlier.

But now we are again in touch with two excellent men, who possess many good qualifications for this work. One of them is a student at Calvin Seminary and the other is an ordained minister of our denomination.

In addition to these two men, there is Mr. John Samuel Boonstra, now in the second year at Calvin Seminary, a young man from the former congregation of the Rev. Jerry Pott, Tres Arroyos, Argentina, whose native tongue is Spanish and who also took the Dutch required by our Calvin pre-seminary course. He plans to serve in Classis Buenos Aires, and now receives support accordingly. Both he and Mr. Ananda Perera, a student at Calvin College, from Ceylon, are doing very well in their studies at Calvin College and Seminary.

The Rev. Jerry Pott continues to serve with zeal, consecration and blessing in the congregation of Buenos Aires, and in various home mission stations, as we would call these scattered Dutch groups in Argentina. The Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt, now over 70 years of age, also continues to serve the church of Buenos Aires and various of these Dutch groups. The Rev. J. Vander Velde, serves the congregation of Tres Arroyos, Argentina, and various Dutch groups; he is a native of Argentina, and had his seminary training at Kampen, Netherlands. The Rev. J. M. Opperman, from South Africa and subsidized by the Reformed Churches of South Africa, serves the large and scattered congregation of Chubut.

in southern Argentina. Details concerning these fields may be found in the current "Yearbook" of the Christian Reformed Church, and in prior reports to Synod. All these men have to cover many miles, but their labors are also abundantly blessed of the Lord.

### III. *Brazil.*

In the southeastern part of this nation, there are now two congregations and two ministers, belonging to Classis Buenos Aires. The Rev. Wm. V. Muller serves the congregation of recent immigrants from the Netherlands that has settled at Castrolanda, Parana, Brazil. The new congregation of 31 members in full communion and 51 baptized members seems to represent a very successful effort at colonization by people of Reformed persuasion and of Dutch stock. The Castrolanda church was organized Oct. 23, 1952.

Subject to Synodical approval, your Committee has granted the request of the congregation of Castrolanda, that the Rev. Wm. V. Muller, as minister loaned to Classis Buenos Aires, be now bound to the congregation of Castrolanda, Parana, Brazil.

Concerning the church-governmental relationship of the Rev. Wm. V. Muller, reference is hereby made to the Acts of the Synod of 1936, page 234. The correspondence of your Committee related to this matter, as well as all other correspondence, is available to Synod.

The Rev. L. Moesker, from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, serves *the now self-supporting* church at Carambehy, Parana, Brazil, which was formerly served by our Rev. Wm. V. Muller.

### IV. *Conclusion.*

When we look at the fields of Brazil, Argentina and Ceylon, we may well say, "What Hath God Wrought." Since the Dutch migration of 1889 to Argentina, definite spiritual changes for the better have occurred in both Argentina and Brazil, in the congregations of Classis Buenos Aires, through the cooperation of our Christian Reformed Churches, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands and the Reformed Churches of South Africa. Spiritual changes for the better have also occurred in Ceylon. Interested ministers and supporting churches are requested to contact any member of the Committee for the furtherance of the work in these needy fields.

Your Committee takes respectful cognizance of the rulings of Synod with regard to membership and changes in Committees and Boards. Your secretary has served longer on this Committee than any other member, for which he humbly expresses his gratitude to the Church and to the Lord. We also call the attention of Synod to the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. Peter Jonker, who rendered invaluable service in this Committee for many years.

May the indispensable blessing of the Lord rest upon all the labors in the fields of South America and Ceylon, to the coming of His kingdom and the glory of His name.

MATTERS FOR SYNODICAL CONSIDERATION

I. The following budget for 1954, prepared by our Treasurer, Mr. John De Haan, and approved by your committee, is brought to the attention of Synod.

REV. WM. V. MULLER

Basic Salary .....	\$ 3,200.00	
Raise after 15 years .....	300.00	
Child's allowance .....	250.00	
Inflation bonus .....	1,800.00	
For travel in missionary work .....	2,000.00	
Rent of house for 9 months .....	990.00	
Car operational expense .....	1,200.00	\$ 9,740.00

REV. JERRY POTT

Basic Salary .....	\$ 3,200.00	
Raise after 15 years .....	300.00	
Children's allowance .....	750.00	
Inflation bonus .....	1,500.00	
Car operational expense .....	800.00	\$ 6,550.00

<i>Basic Salary missionary approved in 1944</i> .....	\$ 3,200.00	
Inflation bonus .....	1,500.00	
Car for missionary .....	2,500.00	
Car operational expense .....	800.00	
Expense to send missionary .....	2,400.00	\$10,400.00

Subsidy Tres Arroyos for Rev. J. V.d. Velde.....		\$ 1,000.00
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REV. A. C. SONNEVELDT

Subsidy .....	\$ 1,000.00	
Inflation bonus .....	1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00

REV. C. VAN ENS

Basic Salary .....	\$ 3,200.00	
Inflation bonus .....	1,500.00	
House Rent .....	1,500.00	
Car operational expense .....	900.00	\$ 7,100.00

REV. J. VAN ENS

Same as for Rev. C. Van Ens .....		\$ 7,100.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Administration expense .....	\$ 500.00	
Support of J. S. Boonstra .....	1,400.00	
Support of A. Perera .....	1,400.00	
Furlough and contingency .....	6,000.00	
Miscellaneous .....	300.00	\$ 9,600.00

Repayment of Loan .....		\$10,000.00
<i>Total budget for 1954</i> .....		\$63,990.00



**ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1954**

Tres Arroyos, payment on building .....	\$ 500.00	
From Dutch Ref. Church, Ceylon .....	720.00	
From Netherlands for Rev. Sonneveldt .....	0.00	
From Classes for student support .....	1,000.00	
From Canadian Churches .....	1,000.00	
For support of the Van Ens's .....	2,800.00	\$ 6,020.00
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To be raised by quotas .....		\$57,970.00

Quota per family — approximately \$1.50

II. Synod approve of a quota of \$1.50 per family.

III. Synod appoint a Committee to take care of the fields of South America and Ceylon.

*Committee of Synod for  
South America and Ceylon,*

REV. THOMAS YFF, *President,*  
MR. JOHN DE HAAN, *Treasurer,*  
MARTIN J. WYNGAARDEN, *Secretary,*  
REV. CHRISTIAN VAN DEN HEUVEL,  
DR. EARL STRIKWERDA.

*Gentlemen:*

We have examined the income and disbursements for the year 1952, and the bank balances as of December 31, 1952, of your Fund, and find that they are in accord with the hereby presented statement.

We have also compiled a Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1952, from the books and vouchers and which does, in my opinion, present fairly the financial position of your Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
PETER B. VANDER MEER,  
*Certified Public Accountant.*

**BALANCE SHEET OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN FUND  
of the  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

December 31, 1952

**ASSETS**

Cash in Peoples National Bank .....	\$14,768.65	
Cash in Citizens Industrial Bank .....	2.19	\$14,770.84
<hr/>		
<b>ADVANCES</b>		
Rev. Sonneveld .....	1,000.00	
Rev. J. O. Schuring .....	120.00	
Rev. C. Van Ens .....	1,936.60	
Rev. J. Van Ens .....	3,695.15	
<hr/>		
Total .....	6,751.75	
Due to Rev. Wm. Muller .....	96.84	6,654.91
<hr/>		
Building Fund Tres Arroyos .....		1,545.12
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS OF FUND:</b> .....		<b>\$22,970.87</b>

## LIABILITIES

Due to Board of Foreign Missions .....	\$10,000.00
Reserved for residence Rev. Muller .....	5,000.00
Reserved for Furlough Expense .....	6,000.00
<b>Total liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$21,000.00</b>

## EQUITY

Available Fund .....	1,970.87
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY: .....** **\$22,970.87**

This balance sheet is compiled from books and vouchers and does, in my opinion, present fairly the financial position of your fund.

Sincerely yours,

PETER B. VANDER MEER,  
*Certified Public Accountant.*

February 21, 1953  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

Jan. 1, 1953 to December 31, 1953

## INCOME

Classis	
Alberta .....	\$ 565.06
California .....	2,085.11
Chicago — North .....	2,432.15
Chicago — South .....	3,022.62
Grand Rapids — East .....	3,435.74
Grand Rapids — South .....	2,506.29
Grand Rapids — West .....	3,653.13
Hackensack .....	1,105.04
Holland .....	2,648.09
Hudson .....	2,109.59
Kalamazoo .....	1,760.41
Minnesota .....	1,117.31
Muskegon .....	2,832.66
Ontario .....	588.20
Orange City .....	1,084.01
Ostfriesland .....	560.73
Pacific .....	1,505.44
Pella .....	1,931.84
Sioux Center .....	1,673.69
Wisconsin .....	879.93
Zeeland .....	2,462.65
<b>Total receipts from Classes .....</b>	<b>\$39,959.69</b>
Missionary Unions .....	\$ 1,813.96
Donors .....	969.00
Societies .....	125.00
Sunday Schools .....	159.84
Churches .....	3,333.87
Classes for Students .....	1,350.00
Loan from Board of Missions .....	10,000.00

Interest on Government Bonds .....	18.69	
From Sale of Government Bonds .....	1,360.47	
		19,130.83
Cash Income for 1952 .....		\$59,090.52
Income from Tres Arroyos for Building Fund .....		500.00
Income from Dutch Ref. Church of Ceylon .....		63.30
		<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME FOR 1952 .....		\$59,653.82

## DISBURSEMENTS

Rev. Wm. Muller, Salary, etc. ....	\$10,887.25	
Rev. J. Pott, Salary, etc. ....	5,990.00	
Rev. Vande Velde .....	1,000.00	
Rev. C. Van Ens .....	7,961.93	
Rev. J. Van Ens .....	7,819.75	
Rev. A. C. Sonneveld .....	4,500.00	
Rev. J. O. Schuring .....	3,490.53	
John S. Boonstra .....	1,087.45	
A. Perera .....	832.85	
A. Elzinga, Gifts for 1951 and 1952 .....	20.00	
Stipends — Secretary and Treasurer .....	300.00	
Administration expense .....	133.52	
Payment of Loan — Bd. of Missions .....	2,000.00	
Van Ens — Moving, Medical Expense, Trip Grand Rapids to Netherlands .....	2,265.17	
Books for Ceylon .....	688.23	
Wachters and Banners for S. A. ....	58.00	
		<hr/>
Total Disbursement for 1952 .....		\$49,034.68

## INCOME EXCEEDS DISBURSEMENTS .....

Bank balance January 1, 1952 .....	\$ 4,151.70	\$10,619.14
Income for 1952 .....	59,653.82	
		<hr/>
	63,805.52	
Disbursements for 1952 .....	49,034.68	
		<hr/>
Balance, December 31, 1952 .....	\$14,770.84	

## DETAILED SCHEDULES OF DISBURSEMENTS

## SCHEDULE "A"

Rev. Wm. Muller	
Balance Due Dec. 31, 1951 .....	\$ 1,049.92
Salary, bonus, Child allowance .....	5,350.00
House rent, 10 months .....	1,100.00
Car operational expense .....	1,453.07
10 trips to M. Alegre .....	400.50
2 trips to Rio .....	571.80
2 trips to Rio and San Paulo .....	751.30
1 trip to Sao Paulo .....	262.00
1 trip to Rancharia .....	45.50
	<hr/>
	10,984.09

Less balance due him for 1952 .....	96.84
Cash payments 1952 .....	\$10,887.25
<b>SCHEDULE "B"</b>	
Rev. J. Pott	
Salary, bonus, allowance .....	\$ 5,400.00
Car operational expense .....	590.00
Cash payments 1952 .....	\$ 5,990.00
<b>SCHEDULE "C"</b>	
Rev. C. Van Ens	
Outfit .....	\$ 700.00
Ticket, etc. Netherlands to Ceylon .....	1,841.65
Car and Insurance .....	2,108.68
Salary and bonus .....	1,875.00
	6,025.33
Credit balance for 1953 .....	1,936.60
Cash payments 1952 .....	\$ 7,961.93
<b>SCHEDULE "D"</b>	
Rev. J. Van Ens	
Outfit .....	\$ 700.00
Salary and bonus .....	2,250.00
Trip Netherlands to Ceylon .....	1,174.60
	4,124.60
Credit balance for 1953 .....	3,695.15
Cash payments 1952 .....	\$ 7,819.75
<b>SCHEDULE "E"</b>	
Rev. A. C. Sonneveld	
Balance due for 1951 .....	\$ 1,000.00
Due for 1952 .....	2,500.00
	3,500.00
Credit balance for 1953 .....	1,000.00
Cash payment 1952 .....	\$ 4,500.00
<b>SCHEDULE "F"</b>	
Rev. J. O. Schuring	
Balance due Dec. 1951 .....	\$ 3,328.00
Freight Muskegon to Kalamazoo .....	37.78
Custom Agent Insp. Expense .....	4.80
	3,370.58
Credit balance .....	120.00
Cash payment 1952 .....	\$ 3,490.58
Loan from Christian Reformed Board of Missions	
Jan. 1, 1952 — Due to Board of Missions .....	\$ 2,000.00
Dec. 24, 1952 — Loan from Board of Missions .....	10,000.00
	12,000.00

Apr. 1, 1952 Repaid to Mission Bd. ....	\$ 200.00	
May 12, 1952 Repaid to Mission Bd. ....	\$1,800.00	2,000.00
		<hr/>
December 31, 1952 Due to Board of Missions .....		\$10,000.00
	* * *	
Loan extended to Tres Arroyos for Building Fund		
Jan. 1, 1952 — Balance due to S. A. Fund .....	\$ 2,045.12	
* Paid by Tres Arroyos Church .....		500.00
		<hr/>
December 31, 1952 — Balance due S. A. Fund .....		\$ 1,545.12
* Given to Rev. Vande Velde and counted as part of his salary.		

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 10-A**  
(Arts. 76, 96)

**SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

I. Since submitting our report for the Agenda, your committee has received communications from the Rev. Wm. V. Muller, The Rev. Jerry Pott, the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt, and the Reverends Clarence and John Van Ens. These communications show that the work of these missionaries is going forward, and is being blessed by the Lord.

II. Concerning Mr. John Samuel Boonstra, a Senior, next year, at Calvin Seminary, from Tres Arroyos, Argentina, your committee can report that we are negotiating with the Alpine Ave. Church, in order that this brother may have a calling and supporting church, when he graduates, the Lord willing, from Calvin Seminary, in the spring of 1954. We have every hope that these negotiations will have a favorable result. Your committee recommends Synodical approval, in order that further preparations may be made, before the spring of 1954, with respect to obtaining a calling and supporting church, for this brother, with a view to his service in Argentina, after the Synod of 1954.

III. For the work in Ceylon, your committee also has been happily surprised that it would seem possible, eventually, to send out "an additional minister," in response to the request of the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon, "for an additional minister," this request being signed by Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Scriba of the General Consistory and dated the 2nd of April 1953.

In addition to the above correspondence from Ceylon, your Committee also has a carefully written two-page letter from one of our ministers, offering his services in response to the present need of Ceylon. This brother is very well qualified for this work. We have satisfactory health certificates concerning him and his wife. Since he has been in his church approximately a year, he requests that, if appointed, he be permitted to serve his present congregation fully two years. This request also stands in relation to the education of his children. We favor granting this request, subject to Synodical approval.

Correspondence from the Reverends Clarence and John Van Ens bears upon the above-mentioned communication from the General Consistory of Ceylon. All the correspondence referred to, from the General Consistory of Ceylon, from this minister and from the Reverends C. and J. Van Ens is available, to the designated Committee of Pre-advice of the Synod of 1953.

Furthermore, your committee has approached the Consistory of La Grave Ave. to become the calling and supporting church, in case Synod should act favorably on the present request from the General Consistory of Ceylon. We have a statement signed by the clerk of this consistory that it recommends to the congregation that this church support this work with five thousand dollars annually. This statement is as follows:

"The Mission Committee respectfully recommends:

"That Consistory advise the Congregational meeting that our church has been invited by the Synodical Committee for South America and Ceylon to become the calling and supporting church for a Missionary-Minister to Ceylon; that the Congregation be asked to authorize the Consistory to issue a call for this post and that the Congregation approve payments from the Mission Budget for this purpose to the extent of \$5000.00 per annum. Approved by Consistory La Grave Avenue C. R. Church June 8, 1953. Attest: John Dolfin, Jr. Clerk."

Your Committee recommends that Synod act favorably on the request of the General Consistory of Ceylon, and grant approval that further preparations be made, with a view to sending out "an additional minister" to Ceylon, "on the same terms on which the brothers Van Ens have been appointed." (Quotations are from the above-mentioned letter of April 2nd, 1953, from Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Scriba of the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon.)

IV. Your committee, furthermore, reports that, in response to various appeals from South America, another very competent licensed student, at Calvin Seminary, desires to serve in Argentina. He will be in his last year, the Lord willing, at Calvin Seminary next year. Your committee most heartily recommends this class-mate of Mr. John Samuel Boonstra, for such service and requests Synodical approval to seek a calling and supporting church, for his eventual service the Lord willing, in Argentina. Details are available to Synod or its Committee of Pre-advise.

V. Your Committee is also submitting to Synod correspondence concerning an appeal for support of work in the Reformed Church, Gereformeerde Kerken, in Suriname, or Dutch Guiana, in the northern part of South America. In view of our present commitments and the rapidly expanding program in South America and Ceylon, we submit without recommendation this appeal for *your* consideration.

Humbly submitted,

*Your Committee for South America and Ceylon*

REV. THOMAS YFF, *President*

MR. JOHN DE HAAN, *Treasurer*

MARTIN J. WYNGAARDEN, *Secretary*

REV. CHRISTIAN VANDEN HEUVEL      DR. EARL STRIKWERDA

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 11**  
(Art. 57)

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**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

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ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The following is brought to the attention of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church.

1. All bodies mentioned in Recommendation No. 1 of the Report of our committee in 1952 will be notified again except the one body which has sent in the requested material. Cf. p. 333 of Acts of 1952.

2. We have urged the Library Committee of Calvin College and Seminary to make provision for the collection, classification and storage of all materials pertaining to the history of the Christian Reformed Church and to hire additional personnel for this task, if necessary.

3. We would like to remind Synod of the coming centennial in 1957 and to urge it to appoint a committee to take the necessary measures for an early preparation.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. KROMMINGA, *Chairman*,  
HENRY J. VAN Andel, *Secretary*,  
GEORGE STOB,  
EDWIN MONSMA.



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 12**

(Arts. 90, 91, 94, 96, 110, 158)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE  
AND SEMINARY****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

In keeping with the mandate embodied in the rules governing the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary, the Board submits a survey of its many activities and the actions of its Executive Committee since the time of the last Synod. A supplementary report covering the second semester of the current academic year will be submitted later.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

A. *Board.* All 24 ministerial trustees together with 8 of the 9 lay member trustees were present at the regular midyear sessions of the Board held February 11-17, 1953. Morning, noon and night we labored and prayed together in the common task of administering the affairs of Calvin. The following were chosen as officers for the year:

President.....	The Reverend Martin Monsma
Vice-president.....	Dr. John Van Bruggen
Secretary.....	The Reverend John T. Holwerda
Assistant Secretary .....	The Reverend Jacob T. Hoogstra

The officers are the same as before, except that a replacement was chosen for the Reverend Richard J. Frens, our former secretary, who retired last August after serving some 18 years as curator, including four years as secretary. Proper appreciation has been expressed to him for his many labors of love.

Synod's attention is called to the incorrect listing of the names of Dr. D. De Vries, Dr. J. Van Bruggen and Mr. B. Staal as alternates in Article 190, Acts 1952. All are regular delegates. Names of alternates are to be found in Article 126 of the same Acts.

B. *Executive Committee.* Twelve members of the Board of Trustees (seven ministers and five laymen) with the Reverend Gerrit Hoeksema as chairman, function as an Executive Committee which meets at least once a month and sometimes more often to administer the work of our institution between Board sessions. Close contact has been maintained with the two presidents as well as with sub-committees, namely, Finance, Education, Long Range Planning, Construction, Pension, and Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Committees. Class visits are regularly made and reports rendered.

C. *Seminary President.* The Executive Committee carried out Synod's instruction of last year (Article 193 II, C, 3, B) and designated Professor R. B. Kuiper, who previously had accepted Synod's

appointment of one year for the department of Practical Theology, to serve as Acting President. This he agreed to do in addition to a full schedule of teaching. His rich experience, forthright speech and charm has contributed much to help the Seminary through its current trials. Under his leadership the faculty is addressing itself to the work of instruction and the advance of theological learning. Together with President Spoelhof he has also initiated a program for closer cooperation between the college and seminary. Both Board and Executive Committee have profited much from his counsel. It is the mind of the Board that he should be reappointed as president for one year but that his teaching load be reduced to courses in Homiletics and Practise Preaching. President Kuiper is favorably disposed to accept such an appointment.

The rules for the office of President of the Seminary submitted to Synod of 1952 have been revised and approved by the Board. They are presented herewith for Synod's final approval. (See Appendix A)

D. *College President.* Dr. William Spoelhof, who is now in his second year as administrator, is daily demonstrating his sterling qualities of wise leadership, executive ability and Christian character. His study and counsel on college matters have been of invaluable help to the Executive Committee and the Board alike in carrying on their work. Though the Board is fully aware of his excellent teaching capacity and powers, it feels he should continue on as our college executive. In him the faculty has an ardent advocate, the Board a strong spokesman, and the Church a loyal defender of the faith. He is ably aided by the members of the faculty, more specifically by his administrative staff, namely, Dr. H. J. Ryskamp, dean; Prof. Harry Dekker, registrar; Dr. Lester De Beer, dean of men; and Miss Catherine Van Opynen, dean of women. Though the task of administration in connection with the labors of Mr. Gordon Buter, business manager, Mr. Sydney Youngsma, financial director, Prof. L. De Koster, Director of the library and the Reverend Arnold Brink, Educational Secretary is held jointly with the seminary president (since both schools are involved) the work of the college president is naturally more extensive due to the size and needs of the college. In these areas of common interests the two administrations evince a splendid cooperative spirit.

The Board recommends the reappointment of Dr. William Spoelhof as president for a four-year term.

Further, having heard the advice of the president the Board recommends the reappointment of

1. Mr. Gordon Buter as Business Manager for a four-year term
2. The Reverend Arnold Brink as Educational Secretary
3. Miss Catherine Van Opynen as Dean of Women for a four-year term.

## II. EDUCATION

A. *Seminary*

1. *Faculty Personnel.* After Synod's action of last year, the Seminary was left with one regular professor and one professor extraordinary. It will be remembered, however, that Synod made provision for the continued operation of our seminary by making appointments for all chairs except that of Missions. Three of the appointees, Professor R. B. Kuiper, Dr. Henry Stob and Dr. John Kromminga accepted the appointments tendered them. Dr. G. Berkouwer declined the appointment given him, as did Dr. N. Stonehouse, although the latter did not do so without first consulting with the Executive Committee and giving clarification as to the difficulty that he had in accepting a one year appointment at the time. However, Professor Schultze was found willing to shoulder the responsibilities of the New Testament department. He was first asked to teach for the first semester only, and later mandated to teach the second semester as well. When the Executive Committee learned of Dr. Berkouwer's decline, emergency measures were at once taken to provide for the teaching of the necessary courses in Dogmatics. Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Dr. William Masselink, and Prof. John Bratt of the college were found willing to share the burden of this department, each teaching three hours. Proper financial offers have been made to the Prospect Park Consistory and the R.B.I. Board for releasing Dr. J. T. Hoogstra and Dr. Wm. Masselink for the time needed to teach at our seminary.

All professors and part time teachers have signed the form of subscription.

We append a quotation from the president's report to the Board which highlights something of our needs.

"It is obvious that our Faculty is in great need of being strengthened. The present arrangement of having Dogmatics taught by three part-time Professors is unsatisfactory. Whether there is need of a separate chair of Contemporaneous Theological Thought is a question which ought to be answered. The chair of Missions is vacant and should be filled as soon as feasible. Although Prof. Schultze's health has been remarkably good during the past semester, it seems clear that he cannot be expected long to bear the burden of the entire New Testament department. To this may be added that I agree wholeheartedly with my predecessor in the chair of Practical Theology that the work in that department is such as to require two men, and I am pleased to learn that the Board of Trustees has already gone on record as favoring that forward step. To name a few specific matters in this connection, the present arrangements for *Practice Preaching* are quite inadequate for a hundred students; the course in *Church Government* should be expanded from three hours to at least four; and surely the department

of Practical Theology should offer a course in what may be called *Pastoral Psychiatry*."

2. *Student Body*. The president reported a total enrollment of 117 students in our seminary; 25 juniors, 30 middlers, and 34 seniors with 17 graduate students and 11 special students. Six of these special students were granted a change of status to that of regular students at the close of the first semester. The president reports that "The students are manifesting a laudable spirit of loyalty and cooperation. To be sure, at times they are critical of their superiors, but in view of the imperfections of both professors and students that might be expected. By and large the attitude of the students is decidedly commendable."

Some 20 seminarians petitioned for authorization to form a Dutch Study Club for the purpose of gaining greater proficiency in the use of the Dutch language and becoming better acquainted with Dutch theological works. The Executive Committee, seeing great possibilities in this venture, readily granted approval.

3. *Curricular matters*. Even though radical changes took place in our faculty, all courses needed to meet the requirements of the catalogue and the students were offered. Only four post graduate courses, however, were available for the first semester, and three for the second semester. A two-hour course in Reformed Church Music has been approved as an elective for the second semester, and arrangements were made with the college administration whereby Dr. Henry Bruinsma is being loaned to the seminary to teach this course for one semester only. As noted previously Prof. R. B. Kuiper was found willing to teach a course in Mission Principles during the second semester. A course in New Testament History has been reintroduced into the curriculum, at the suggestion of the faculty.

4. *B. D. Degree*. The Board has approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee and faculty to change the nomenclature of the first degree granted by the Seminary from Th.B. to B.D. Two reasons were given: a. The American Association of Theological Schools recommends to member seminaries that B.D. be the nomenclature for their first degree. b. The Th. B. degree has been depreciated by certain schools in recent years and consequently is not held in as high esteem in academic circles as is the B.D. degree. In this connection we may add that the President has been charged by the Board to study the requirements and possibilities of granting the Th.D. at our seminary.

5. *Scholarships and Aid*. A Seminary Student Fund has been established through the courtesy of a friend of the school in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. After careful investigation by a committee of the Faculty under direction of the Finance Committee the sum of one thousand

dollars provided by the donor was dispensed among five students this year.

Mr. Andrew Bandstra, senior in our Seminary, was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship for 1953-1954, which will permit graduate study at the Free University.

6. *Nominations.* Much thought and time was given to the matter of staffing our seminary faculty. After the recommendations of the faculty had been studied and the report of a special committee on Appointments had been rendered the Board voted to make the following recommendations:

a. That Prof. R. B. Kuiper be reappointed for another year as Acting President of the Seminary with a limited teaching load in the department of Practical Theology. The plan is that he shall continue to teach Homiletics and supervise practice preaching.

b. That Synod appoint two men for the department of Practical Theology, one to begin immediately in September 1953 for Church Government and related subjects, and the other to begin in September 1954 after a year's study, to teach Homiletics and related subjects. With our increased enrolment there is far too much work for one man in this strategic field.

Nomination for Practical Theology I (to begin in 1953 and teach Church Government, etc.): G. Gritter, M. Monsma and J. Weidenaar.

Nomination for Practical Theology II (to begin in 1954 and teach Homiletics, etc.): A. Hoekema, C. Kromminga and E. Ubels.

c. That Dr. John Kromminga be reappointed to the chair of Church History for a two-year term. In the event that Synod chooses to have a double nomination for Church History, the Board is prepared to submit an additional name.

d. That Synod appoint the Reverend Harold Dekker for a one-year lectureship in Missions. If Synod desires additional names for a nomination, the Board is prepared to submit such. Engaging a lecturer in this chair for a year will afford the Board time to make a proper recommendation for a permanent appointment.

e. That Professor Schultze be asked to continue his work in the New Testament department as professor extraordinary.

f. That Synod invite one or more men to serve as visiting lecturers in New Testament for the next year. The Board recommends Prof. J. Skilton of Westminster and Dr. Herman Ridderbos of Kampen, Netherlands. This procedure will allow the Board further opportunity to cast about for a permanent appointee.

g. That a man of maturer years be selected for a two-year term beginning September 1953 to teach Dogmatics. This will afford the Board and Synod opportunity to give further consideration to the proper staffing of this department.

The Board nominates the following for this chair:

Dr. J. Bruinooge, Dr. R. J. Danhof and Dr. H. Kuiper.

7. *Ecumenical Synod delegate.* Synod referred the appointment of a replacement for Dr. S. Volbeda, who was chosen as a delegate to the Ecumenical Synod, but who cannot serve because of ill health, to the Board for action. Dr. John Kromminga has been designated as the delegate. He was apprized of his appointment.

8. *Emeriti professors.* Though much time was spent in considering the work of our present professors and even more time giving attention to the problem of securing additional professors, the Board and Executive Committee have not forgotten our highly esteemed emeritated professors: Professor Emeritus L. Berkhof, who had been hospitalized for a time, Dr. S. Volbeda, who suffers much pain, and Dr. C. Bouma whose days are as nights. Frequently their afflictions were brought to the throne of grace in prayer at the sessions of the Board and Executive Committee. We remember them as men God gave to speak His precious word in our ears.

#### B. College

##### 1. Faculty

a. We added seven members to the full-time teaching staff of the college this past year. They are: Instructors George Harper, Arthur J. Otten, Calvin Andre, and Assistants David Tuuk, Bastiaan Van Elderen, Ann Janssen and Robert Otten. The president reports that they appear to have made a good adjustment to college teaching. Each displays an admirable diligence in his or her work and a dedication to the job which needs doing at Calvin College. He further reported: "There are now 48 persons teaching a full schedule of 12-15 hours, 6 faculty members teaching a reduced schedule along with administrative duties, and 9 part-time assistants. The latter two teacher-groups teach a combined load of 79 credit hours, thus performing the work of 5½ full-time teachers.

"Using 53.5 as the number of teachers who have a full teaching schedule, and 1191 as the number of students enrolled, we arrive at a faculty-student ratio of 1 faculty member to 22.2 students. A year ago we reported a 1-23 ratio. A 1-15 ratio is deemed desirable, and appears to be the goal set by most colleges of the size and caliber of Calvin College."

b. All full-time assistants and full-time instructors newly added to the staff have signed the Form of subscription.

c. The problem of staff expansion continues to receive attention. The president in his report pointed up our problem in a short paragraph:

"We have not been able to find desirable candidates for vacancies in Music and Physical Education (for women). The problem of find-

ing a teacher for Nutrition, or Dietetics, (Nurses' Training) remains perennially acute. Likewise, there exists a real need for staff expansion in the Sociology, Economics, and Psychology departments. These represent immediate needs. Within one year and a half, four of our present staff members are scheduled for retirement. Replacements for them will not be easy to find."

d. Two faculty members, Dr. Van Zyl and Prof. H. Van Anandel are scheduled for retirement in June, 1953. Both have given to Calvin College long years of service marked by diligent and consecrated effort. The Board decided to give a testimonial dinner at its May meeting in their honor.

The Board has also established a policy at the president's suggestions of giving recognition to those members of our teaching staff who complete twenty-five years of service. It is planned in keeping with this decision to make the testimonial dinner in May the occasion for special recognition of faculty members who have completed 25 years of service or more, but who have not had such special recognition before.

Those to be honored are:

Dr. H. H. Meeter.....	25 years in May 1951
Prof. S. Swets.....	30 years in February 1953
Dr. H. Van Zyl.....	30 years in May 1953
Dr. P. Hoekstra.....	35 years in May 1953; also secretary of the faculty for 23 years
Dr. H. Ryskamp.....	35 years in May 1953
Dr. R. Stob.....	35 years in May 1952
Prof. H. Van Anandel.....	38 years in May 1953
Prof. J. Van Haitsma.....	44 years in May 1953

Professor T. Dirkse was honored last year with an invitation to serve in the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, an offer which he was led to decline. Professor Donald Bouma in September 1952 was granted his doctorate in sociology at the University of Michigan. Due note has been taken of these honors by the Board and its instruments.

e. Mr. Walter Lagerwey under appointment subject to a final interview is at present in the Netherlands pursuing his studies in preparation for teaching in the Dutch department beginning September 1953.

Mr. John Vanden Berg is on leave of absence for the entire school year. He is making excellent progress toward satisfying requirements for a Ph.D. degree.

f. A fuller report will be given later on the problem of integration as suggested by Synod last year. At this time we may report that a laudable effort was put forth by our college administration in inaugurating a convocation of the two Faculties and Board members at Camp Geneva early in September of 1952 at which the following subjects were discussed: Teacher Appraisal, Seminary-College interrela-

tionships, the Christian and Art and Teaching Philosophy at Calvin College.

g. The Board has approved a revised regulation covering grants to faculty members for summer study (see Appendix B).

## 2. *Student Body*

Although the college administration had expected to hit the bottom of the enrolment cycle in 1952-1953, Calvin's enrolment trend has already reversed itself. Some 1191 students were enrolled in September, 21 more than the year before. Barring abnormal conditions, this trend should continue with the big increases coming in 1958-1960. Students enrolled in the pre-seminary course total about 12%, a percentage that has been fairly constant over the last six years. At present students preparing for the ministry and for Christian education comprise 60% of the student body. Currently we have some 42 Canadian students, 3 Netherlands students and 3 from Asia. The administration notes that there is a growing interest on the part of foreign students who desire to come to Calvin. Since this involves securing sponsors for them, and granting a measure of financial aid, the Board is giving thought to the matter and may have some concrete suggestions to make to Synod in its next report.

The president reports that in general the student body has displayed an admirable spirit of co-operation and loyalty this year. He believes we have one of the finest groups we have yet had at Calvin. The students manifest a sincere desire to live up to the ideals established for the college. Their extra-curricular activities are being exceptionally well managed. Moreover, the Social and Religious Committee and the Dean of Students have frequently voiced their praise for the type of activity for which the students seek prior permission. A fuller report of the Dean of Students and the Dean of Women is available if desired.

## 3. *Curriculum*

The following courses previously approved were activated in the Physics department this past September. Electronic Measurement, Electronics, Optics, Heat and Mechanics. Approval has been voted for one year for a course called Christian Evidences. Further, approval was given to the following new courses: Contemporary Dutch Philosophy, History of Social Thought, Cultural Anthropology, Piano Pedagogy and Greek drama. The administration announced that Pre-occupational therapy, Pre-Home Economics, and Pre-agriculture courses of study are now available at Calvin.

A special Conference on Sacred Music is planned for next summer, August 19-27 "to enable church musicians and ministers to gain inspiration and knowledge in the promotion of the general music program of the Church." Brochures describing the institute are available for Synod's perusal.



#### 4. *Scholarships*

As in former years, scholarships were again given to recommended high school graduates; ten full and five half scholarships were awarded graduates of Christian High Schools; and four full and five half scholarships given to public high school graduates. Remission of tuition was granted to one foreign student. Through the kindness of the Keeler Brass Co. of Grand Rapids, fifteen scholarships of \$150.00 each have been made available; five to be awarded in each of the next three years. These scholarships are to be granted by the faculty to men students, preferably residents of Michigan, who have completed at least one year at Calvin College. Eligibility is to be determined on the basis of positive evidence of earnestness of purpose, scholastic ability and financial need.

#### 5. *Appointments*

Much time was spent by the Board in interviewing new appointees and faculty members who are recommended for reappointment with life tenure, as well as reviewing the qualifications of those recommended for promotion and/or extended tenure. Approval for the following actions is recommended:

a. Dr. Cornelius Jaarsma was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in secondary schools

b. Dr. John Daling was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in Psychology

c. Dr. John Timmerman was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in English

d. Dr. Evan Runner was reappointed for a two-year term as Associate Professor in Philosophy

e. James De Jonge was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Associate Professor in Music

f. Henry Bengelink was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in Biology

g. Miss Gertrude Slingerland was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in English

h. Melvin Berghuis was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Speech

i. John Vanden Berg was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Economics

j. Henry Ippel was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Political Science and History

k. Lester De Koster was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor of Speech and as Library Director

l. Miss Helen Van Laar was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in Education

m. Miss Shirley Balk was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in Music

n. Miss Ann Janssen was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in English and Speech

o. Mr. David Tuuk was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Coach

p. Mr. Barney Steen was appointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Physical Education (this was already approved last year subject to an interview). See Acts 1952.

q. Dr. John Van Bruggen was appointed for a two year term as Associate Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in primary schools.

#### 6. *Correction of an error*

In the regulations governing appointments, promotions and salaries approved by Synod (1950 page 259) the maximum salary for an instructor now reads \$3500.00. In the original copy which was approved this reads \$3700.00 and should so appear in our records. Synod is asked to make the necessary correction in its records.

### III. OPERATION OF INSTITUTION

A. *Library.* Authorization has been given for an important change in card indexing and book classification from the Dewey system to the Library of Congress method. The cost when spread over a number of years will not increase the library budget, but will bring big dividends in increased teaching effectiveness, it is claimed. The older method is far less comprehensive in scope.

Under the direction of the two presidents a redefining of administrative policy in the library was found desirable and met with the Board's full approval.

Two significant additions have been made to our library. Mr. Leopold L. Cayvan, a friend of the school added some 800 recordings, valued at approximately \$3464.36, to the Cayvan Collection of Musical Recordings. This was acknowledged with gratitude. Dr. S. Volbeda at retirement made available to the Library a large part of his collection of books, pamphlets and papers, and this kindness on his part likewise was acknowledged with thanks.

B. *Commons.* The shack which for the past few years served so well in our emergency as a science building is gone and in its place now stands the commodious Commons Building, which will supply in the dining and social needs of the student body. Synod too will appreciate this structure and its facilities. Proper ceremonies took place at the time of the cornerstone laying and the official opening late in February. Rules and regulations for the use of the Commons by students and in general have been approved. An arrangement has been made whereby the Alumni Association of Calvin has been granted office

space and the right to operate a concession under the business manager's supervision with the hope that subsidy for the Alumni Association will eventually no longer be needful as heretofore and they assume the responsibility of staffing the Commons second floor office.

### *C. Needs of Today Campaign.*

1. After much searching the Executive Committee secured a well qualified business man for the position of financial secretary of our institution in the person of Mr. Sydney Youngsma. He was found ready and willing to begin just at the strategic moment when the Campaign was about to begin. He has done good work and the Board recommends his reappointment for two years as Financial Secretary.

2. The Finance Committee invited the following men to serve as an advisory committee to lay the groundwork of Calvin's Needs of Today Campaign: P. Andriese (West coast); B. Vellenga (Chicago); G. Andreas (Iowa); G. Kamp (Cleveland); P. Turkstra (Canada); J. Hamersma (East coast); J. Vander Heide and J. Van't Hof (Grand Rapids); W. Boer and B. Staal (Holland); Prof. H. Schultze (seminary); president Spoelhof and Buter (College); and Syd Youngsma (Calvin financial secretary).

This committee in turn organized the broader Campaign Committee. Proper appreciation has been expressed to this Committee and its many aides for the monumental task performed by them so well.

3. An appropriation of \$30,800.00 was authorized for the two million dollar campaign, the same amount expended in the former campaign for one-half the amount. Due to rising costs and special equipment purchased an additional \$13,000.00 was authorized. The purchase of an addressograph and an office accounting machine used in the campaign have more than paid for themselves and will be of continued value to the school.

4. At last reports approximately one and a quarter million dollars had been pledged; one-fourth of this amount being in cash. Because of the excellent response to offer of envelopes the Campaign Committee is quite hopeful of attaining the goal of the Campaign in the five year period as planned. At the suggestion of the Campaign Committee the Board has approved the following recommendations in an endeavor to reach the two million dollar goal.

"1. The Board of Trustees provide the curators with exact figures of the participation of their classis to date together with the participation of the individual churches of that classis for a report to the spring session.

"2. The Board of Trustees express itself as favoring exerting additional efforts to reach our desired goal through collections, contributions, through the general budget or such other methods as would be

appropriate to the churches which have not attained their anticipated amounts and that the Financial Secretary shall, with the advice of the curator, contact these churches and in consultation with minister and consistory devise further plans.

"3. The Board of Trustees urges Synod that it express its deep appreciation of the liberal response to the Calvin campaign. The Board expresses its confidence that gifts will continue to flow in, from various parts of the church and that the desired goal of two million dollars will be reached before the five year period is ended."

In view of the much work that yet remains to be done in connection with the campaign in following up promising leads and do that which of necessity could not be finished at the time of the campaign, approval was given for the forming of a follow-up campaign committee.

5. In response to specific requests made to the Board for the use of the excellent mailing list used in the Campaign, a policy has been established permitting use of the mailing list by Synodically approved causes and Christian Education projects, provided Consistory approval has been first secured. The Business Office will address mailing material at a nominal cost. The facilities are available to all our Consistories for letters addressed to their own constituency at no cost. Regular use will keep the mailing list up to date.

#### D. *Expansion.*

Already last year attention was called to the imperative need for office expansion in the Administration Building and plans for such indicated. Due to budget limitations contemplated plans for alterations were temporarily dropped. Now more than ever something must be done to alleviate the situation particularly in the seminary building, where both faculty and students have been working under tremendous handicaps due to the monopolizing of seminary facilities. The Board has voted approval for the making of plans and letting of contracts to remodel space in the Administration Building for office expansion.

Progress may also be reported in the girls' dormitory project as approved by Synod as far back as 1946. Mr. James Haveman has been engaged as an architect. Snyder and McLean have been engaged for the mechanical planning of the dormitories. The Board has instructed its Construction Committee to consider specified open shop contractors in securing bids for the construction of the dormitories; in its investigations it has learned that some half dozen can be bonded for \$200,000.00 (or more), approximately the cost of erecting one dormitory.

E. The Pension Committee is currently studying the matter of pensions for administrative personnel. Discussions have been held with the employees; plans have been presented to them; at present at the request of the employees further study is being made of the possibili-

ties of combining the former non-faculty employees pension plan (with modifications) with social security.

#### IV. *Miscellaneous.*

The Board of Trustees is most grateful for the contribution that the Calvin Foundation Inc. is making to the advance of Calvinistic study. Previously we have noted but we may note again that they are minded to make available the initial sum of \$5,000.00 to the faculties of Calvin College and Seminary for the prosecution of a study and the production of a "Calvin Report" on Christian Higher Education. Both faculties have pledged their cooperation. More recently the Foundation has informed us they have made arrangements to bring Dr. J. Waterink of the Vrije Universiteit to our campus sometime in 1954 for a series of lectures and seminars and the teaching of a few special courses at Calvin wholly without any expense to our school. Approval was granted for the proposed teaching of courses in both the College and Seminary.

Many other matters have been dealt with in the course of our meetings, but we shall not burden Synod with an account of every detail. We have sought to be found faithful as stewards, bearing in mind that we are accountable not alone to Synod, but to our Exalted King Jesus Christ. Our great joy will be that He establish the work of our hands.

May the Spirit of God endow and direct every member of Synod in all deliberations and decisions.

Humbly submitted,

*Board of Trustees of  
Calvin College and Seminary*

JOHN T. HOLWERDA, *Secretary.*

## THE PRESIDENCY OF CALVIN SEMINARY OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

### Appendix A

#### I. QUALIFICATIONS

The president shall be a man of unquestionable theological stature, academically well prepared, endowed with organizational aptitudes, sterling in character and wise. He must be humble, a lover of men who can enter sympathetically into the situation of others, particularly students and professors. He must be able to give leadership first of all in Calvin Seminary, but also in the church.

#### II. HIS OFFICE

##### *Personal Duties*

The president of the seminary shall be the chief executive officer with full executive powers. All instructional and office personnel of the seminary shall be responsible to him, and he to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee. His duties, *inter alia*, shall be:

1. It shall be the specific task of the president to study and to plan theological education and its integration in our seminary, and present his findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee for Board approval.

2. The president shall be expected to teach but he shall be given sufficient relief from the regular teaching load to be able to conduct the duties of his office.

3. The president shall preside at every official public meeting of the seminary; he shall preside at the commencement exercises of the seminary in case the seminary should choose to hold its own exercises, and shall address the graduates and present them their diplomas; and he shall plan the proper observance of chapel exercises.

#### *Relation of the President to the Faculty*

1. The president shall be the president of the seminary faculty, and shall preside at its meetings.

2. The president shall have authority to appoint all committees of the faculty. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

3. It shall be the duty of the president to visit the classes periodically, to know what is being taught, and to report to the Board on the pedagogical competency and theological soundness and acumen of the professors. He shall consult with the professors, and may give professional advice.

4. While the president in preparing his recommendations to the Board or the Executive Committee shall ordinarily consult with faculty members and faculty committees, it is understood that in the making of recommendations the final responsibility rests with the president.

5. Disputes among faculty members that cannot be resolved between them amicably shall be brought to the president for disposition. If a member remains dissatisfied he may appeal to the Board or the Executive Committee, having first, however, given due notice to the president.

#### *Relation of the President to the Student Body*

1. In student-professor difficulties a student first of all shall approach the professor involved. Should he fail to receive satisfaction the student may appeal to the president. The president has final authority in the matter, and not the faculty.

2. Should a student or a professor feel constrained to appeal to higher authority said appeal shall be made only upon advance notice to the president.

3. It shall be the duty of the president to supervise organizations. The president has final authority, short of the right to appeal to the Board on the part of the members, in the event of difference of opinion on matters of consequence.

4. It shall be the duty of the president to serve as counsellor to the students, especially those who are assigned to him by the Board, and who enter the seminary upon probation.

5. The president shall have authority to summon students for counselling, and in case of reasonable surmise of difficulty shall be expected to do so.

#### *Relation of the President to the Board/Executive Committee*

1. The president shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee, and shall be expected to present significant seminary matters regularly.

2. The president shall make his reports to the Board of Trustees at its regular meetings.

3. In his report to the Board the president shall survey the field covered by the respective professors, the emphasis given, and the results in student accomplishments.

*Relation of the President to the Church*

1. The president shall represent the seminary in administrative matters, at synods, and shall have the privilege of the floor on all matters pertaining to the seminary.

2. The president shall acquaint our churches with the ideals, purposes, accomplishments and needs of the seminary.

*Relation of the President to the President of the College*

The president of the seminary shall keep in touch with the president of Calvin College in order that the unity of the institutions may be continued, and that together they may promote the educational ideals implicit in our faith and history.

## Appendix B

### SPECIAL ALLOWANCES

*Grants to Faculty Members for Summer Study*

"The Board of Trustees will grant an allowance of \$75.00 to any faculty member of rank of instructor or above who attends a summer session at a graduate or professional school. Residence of a minimum of six weeks or its equivalent in terms of semester hours of credit as certified by the Dean of the Graduate School, is necessary to qualify for this grant. In the event that a faculty member spends less than six weeks or its equivalent he will receive reduction in the grant directly proportionate to the weeks spent or credit earned. Seventy-five dollars is the maximum grant for summer study.

"In order to determine the availability of such financial aid, which will be conditioned in part by the number who apply, application should be made with the President a month prior to the end of the school year. It is also necessary that each person who receives the award report to the President immediately after the summer school session. As a general rule no more than five faculty members per year will be permitted to receive this allowance."

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 12-A**  
(Arts. 90, 91, 94, 96, 110, 158)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE  
AND SEMINARY**

*To Synod of 1953, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
in session June 10 and days following.*

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN :**

Now that the academic year of 1952-1953 has come to a close, both in the college and seminary, Commencement for some 37 seminary graduates and 221 college graduates, an event of the past, and the spring sessions of the Board completed, we may, with thanks to God, render this supplementary report to your honorable body. For the convenience we shall employ the same main outline employed in the first report.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

A. *Representation at Synod.* The Board has authorized its president and secretary to represent it at Synod, and requests recognition for them in matters that pertain to our institutions.

B. *Board Membership.* Dr. J. Van Bruggen is retiring as a Board member, since he has accepted a teaching position offered him in our college. Synod is asked to designate who the Board should consider as alternates for the various primi members chosen last year, since the Acts, 1952 (Art 126) are not clear on this matter.

Whoever may be designated, another alternate (term expiring 1955) must be chosen in his stead. The Board submits as a nomination for the position: Arnold Hulst of Grand Rapids, and Ben Smit of Hudsonville.

No alternates have been chosen previously for Mr. B. Staal and Mr. J. De Nooyer, whose terms expire in 1954. The Board submits the following nominations:

Alternate (for Staal)  
John Veltkamp, Holland  
Fred Winter, Muskegon

Alternate (for De Nooyer)  
Ernest Feenstra, Westwood  
R. Stapert, Kalamazoo

Since Mr. J. Van Der Ark is being replaced by his alternate, Mr. G. Andreas a new alternate must be chosen in his stead. The Board submits the following nomination for the Midwest District (term expires 1954):

Himmo Schroeder of Denver, Colo.  
John Brouwer of Pella, Iowa

C. *Long Range Planning.* For the past four years a long range planning committee has given much needed and much appreciated



guidance and direction in charting the expansion of the physical plant and property of Calvin. We also have had the invaluable help of a Construction Committee. In the interest of greater efficiency in policy making and construction activity approval has been given for a consolidation of the functions of the two committees in a new, streamlined Long Range Planning Committee.

D. *Educational Secretary.* The Reverend Arnold Brink, who has loyally given himself in the interests of Calvin over the past 6 years, has informed the Board that he feels constrained to decline the reappointment recommended for him. Our Educational Secretary was included as an honored guest at a testimonial dinner given in honor of those faculty members who this year are receiving their emeritation; appropriate appreciation is also being expressed by letter to the brother for his many labors. The term of Reverend Brink expires August 31, 1953.

Considerable study has been made of the matter of Calvin's public relations. A special study relative to this most important aspect of the school's life prepared under the direction of President Spoelhof, has been submitted. The Board concurs in the president's conviction expressed in this report: "We must establish a public relations department soon. For this we need not augment our administrative staff, but can use personnel already employed." For the rest action has been deferred until more study can be given to the problem.

E. *Candidate Examination.* According to custom, texts were assigned to those seniors who are seeking candidature, and the schedule of examinations published in the church papers. In addition to those names appearing in the published lists, the name of Dr. Edwin H. Palmer, graduate of the V. U., should be added. He was assigned the text: Hebrews 13:20-21.

F. *Executive Committee.* The Board elected from their number the following to serve on the Executive Committee for the year beginning Sept. 1, 1953:

Rev. J. H. Bruinooge	Rev. Rolf Veenstra
Rev. George Gritter	Mr. L. Beré
Rev. J. T. Holweeda	Dr. D. De Vries
Rev. J. T. Hoogstra	Mr. H. Holtvluwer
Rev. M. Monsma	Mr. B. Staal
Rev. E. B. Pekelder	Dr. J. Van Bruggen (or alternate)

## II. EDUCATION

### A. *Seminary*

1. *President.* The report of the president gives many reasons for rejoicing: He writes: "As we near the close of the academic year 1952-53, I can report to your honorable body that the God of all grace has

bestowed many blessings upon the Seminary throughout that period. The Professors have enjoyed such a measure of health that they were able to perform their labors practically without interruption. Regular Faculty meetings were held every month as well as occasional special meetings, and all of these meetings were characterized, not, to be sure, by unanimity on every matter that was considered, yet by a beautiful harmony. The attitude of the student-body has been highly commendable."

We may add at this point, that, in the event Synod sees fit to reappoint President Kuiper, plans have been worked out whereby he will seek the necessary credentials for a proper release from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and establish relation to our church as member and minister.

2. *Students.* Some 35 seniors graduated from our Seminary this year with a B. D. degree; two with the regular Seminary Graduation certificate, and one with a Th.M. degree. No less than ten of those graduating are planning to continue graduate work, a few in Amsterdam, some at Westminster, and one at Union Theological Seminary.

Licensure was granted after due examination to 28 Juniors. Forty-six of our students have gone forth to carry on summer field work under the supervision of the faculty.

Twenty of the Twenty-four who applied for admission to the Seminary, were granted the right to enroll. It will be noted that the number in the class is less than the average that has prevailed over the past few years. Fewer of the students are married, it may be added, which should augur well for the raising of scholastic efforts.

Extension of licensure has been granted to fourteen graduate students, including ten of this year's graduating class.

Franklin Van Halsema, one of our junior seminarians has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will be at the Free University this coming year.

3. *Dr. S. Volbeda.* After an illness of approximately one year our esteemed Emeritus Professor and President, Dr. S. Volbeda, departed this life. A proper resolution of sympathy was ordered spread upon the minutes, sent to the family and published in the church papers. We thank God for the gifts which were so liberally showered upon this meek man of God, and through him and his eloquently expressed thoughts of lecture and sermon, of prayer and of praise, upon the entire Church.

4. *Dr. C. Bouma.* According to information given us there has been a measure of response to treatments given our emeritus professor of Ethics and Apologetics. A remarkable clarity was evidenced for a

48-hour period, but it did not endure. May the church be much in intercessory prayer for him and his family.

5. *Faculty.* That seminary president report: "It affords me great pleasure to report that Dr. Henry Stob and Dr. John Kromminga, both of the Seminary Faculty, are to participate in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, which will convene in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the course of the summer, and that Dr. Stob is also scheduled to address the coming International Congress of Reformed Faith and Action at Montpellier, France.

"The Seminary Faculty is requesting Dr. J. Waterink of the Free Reformed University of Amsterdam, during his contemplated visit with us, to teach a three-hour course for Seminary students in the field of Pastoral Psychology and Psychiatry. Students desiring to take this course will be required to register for it, credit will be given for its successful completion, and Seniors may choose it as their elective.

"Some progress has been made in inter-faculty relations. The College Faculty and the Seminary Faculty have agreed to synchronize their morning schedules in order to facilitate the taking of College courses by Seminary students and vice versa. The two faculties have also agreed henceforth to commemorate *Dies Natalis* by the holding of a joint chapel service. From now on the conference for members of the Board and the two Faculties, which was originated last autumn by President Spoelhof and convened at Camp Geneva, will be under the direction of both Faculties."

6. *Tenure and Appointment of Seminary Professors.* Report was made last year that a study committee had been assigned the task of suggesting ways and means of improving appointment methods for Seminary professors and the related matter of tenure. Synod saw fit to assign three overtures to this committee of the Board. A report has been submitted to the Board, studied and approved and is herewith sent on to Synod for adoption. It will be noted that it can serve as an answer to some of the overtures addressed to this Synod. (see Appendix C). A salary schedule adapted to the ranks as set up in the report is also submitted for approval. (Appendix D).

#### 7. *Nominations.*

a. The Board recommends that Dr. Henry Stob be reappointed to the chair of Ethics and Apologetics for a two year term.

b. The Board further requests Synod to approve a lectureship for the coming year in the department of Dogmatics. Grounds:

1. The new incumbent will not be able to do justice to all the courses he will be expected to teach.

2. There are several promising young men in the field who ought to be given an opportunity to show their ability.

3. This would be a step in the direction of strengthening and eventually enlarging our Seminary Faculty.

c. The Board requests Synod to invite Dr. Fred Klooster as lecturer in Dogmatics for this coming school year.

d. Letters from Dr. Skilton and Dr. Ridderbos indicate that the first named is not available this year and the last named at best will be available only the second semester. In view of this the Board requests Synod that in the event Prof. Ridderbos cannot be engaged for the second semester of 1953-54, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees be instructed to make temporary arrangements for the ensuing school year in the N. T. department.

8. *Th.D. degree.* A fairly large committee with representatives from the Board, the Seminary Faculty and also the College Faculty has been appointed to study the whole question of the granting the Th.D. degree at our Seminary. This does not mean that we shall be granting the degree in the next few years, but does indicate that we are seriously giving thought to the problem.

#### B. *College*

1. *Development.* As did the seminary president, so our college president began his report to the Board on the note of joyful gratitude: "We may continue to speak with emphatic doxologies of the ever-present mercies of God in the affairs of Calvin College. An awareness of the need of God's grace is shared by every one affiliated with our college for, although we are all vigorously active in one of the great causes in His kingdom, we realize that the answers to our problems do not come automatically, easily, nor unanimously."

The president then went on to outline some of the lines of development at Calvin from which we take excerpts for Synod's benefit.

"The aim of the college,' as expressed in our constitution, 'is to give young people an education that is Christian, in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all the students' intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity.' That we do not always attain the full measure of this ideal we readily confess, but that our energies are directed toward this goal we insistently profess. Such an ideal cannot exist in isolation. It must be surrounded by proper administration and organization.

"The post-war years opened a new era in Calvin's history. Our growth from a small to a large college brought many changes. Calvin is the same as far as our educational goal is concerned, but Calvin is not the same in organizational pattern. To maintain and develop our concept of a distinctively Reformed Christian college under new conditions required organizational adjustments and changes. This, I believe, is one of the post-war features which immediately impresses the casual visitor to our campus.

"One of the forward steps taken by the Board under the administration of President Schultze was the appointment of a Business Manager. Since

that time the reorganization of our business affairs has produced one of the noteworthy readjustments to our growth to big-college stature. Modern business methods have now touched such fields as equipment, grounds, contracts, control over student business ventures, faculty services, administrative and faculty budgets, inventories, insurance, finance, student programs, bookkeeping, stock-keeping, and so on. For example, the budget which we present is a carefully-planned, scientifically-designed document. This is not merely a mechanical device. Into it goes the educational policy of the institution, for it gives an accounting of all services. It points out possible areas of contraction as well as areas for future development in all phases of college life.

"The Library is another area in which much reorganization and development have taken place. Perhaps the phenomenal progress of the Library merits mentioning it as the most significant example of keeping pace with changing conditions. Over the last four years every phase of Library activity has been thoroughly examined. Readjustments have been made and a forward-looking policy indicates that we are ready to meet the need of the times.

"We are proud of the development of our denominational reference service. As yet only 40 requests have been made and answered, but undoubtedly the service will expand as soon as the idea 'catches on.'

"During this year we have been of assistance in the establishment of two church libraries, and we have been consulted in the planning for two Christian school libraries. We are able to furnish literature and advice in such matters.

"The establishment of the office of Dean of Students has been another forward step. Many areas of student regulation, control, and guidance needed complete and thorough reorganization. Having only a preliminary guide with which to steer his course the Dean of Students has done much to point out and correct our deficiencies in this phase of student life. In his first experimental year as Dean of Students, his time was largely employed in establishing regulations and control. Such matters as student housing, parking, student programs, and student conduct took much of his time. Dean De Beer's interest, however, lies in the more positive approach to student life. Having set up an effective administration of student affairs, this next year gives promise of developments along the lines of his major interest, which also is the interest of the college.

"The Dean of Students and the Dean of Women have accomplished much to make our current regulations of student housing effective. However, since the war we have been operating under stop-gap arrangements. By obtaining additional residence halls along Franklin Street we can inaugurate our long-range housing program.

"The Student Religious and Social Activities Committee will be called upon to consider a complete reorganization of student programs."

In line with the matters indicated in the president's report attention must also be directed to recent decisions of the Board indicating development at Calvin. Approval has been given to a well outlined Health Service Plan, a copy of which is available to Synod. The plan provides for a full time nurse; the keeping of health records, supervising the physical welfare of the students, first aid, etc.

A beginning has been made in revamping our scholarship program. Henceforth a stipend of \$250.00 will be awarded to all winners of scholarships available to high school graduates. This will erase the disparity involved in providing tuition scholarships, the monetary value of which in the past varied according to the tuition zones.

Since dormitory housing has become available for girls in the League houses recently acquired, the dormitory on the campus will again be used for the boys beginning September 1.

A set of parking regulations has also been approved, which in its initial trial, has proved eminently satisfactory and promises to solve a most nettlesome problem in public relations, particularly with the community about the school.

Last but by no means least, we are happy to report that our college faculty continues to put forth efforts in developing our distinctive kind of education under the leadership of our forward looking President. He reports: "Throughout the school year in the discussions on the Department and Division level we probed deeply into questions involving our Reformed educational policy and into matters involving the Christian Philosophy of Education."

He also reports: "Some two years ago The Calvin Foundation expressed a desire to make money available to the faculties of Calvin College and Seminary for such a study. The Board of Trustees has already concurred and the faculties have submitted a prospectus. All that now remains is to set up the organization to carry on the project.

"In order to give the project its necessary impetus I am appointing a committee from the faculty to make a preliminary bibliographic study on the Christian Philosophy of Education. The function of this committee will be to collect, analyze, and perhaps synthesize materials on a Christian Philosophy of Education which have already appeared. The results of this study will be turned over to the men of the faculties chosen to work on The Calvin Foundation-sponsored project."

Plans have been made in conjunction with the National Union of Christian Schools to hold a conference this summer to discuss the "Junior College" problem.

## 2. Faculty

a. Dr. Henry Zylstra. Our professor in the department of English was made the recipient of a most attractive stipend by the Ford Foundation, a fund established for the advancement of education, which provides full salary for a year plus all necessary travel expenses. The Board has granted him a leave of absence so that he may avail himself of this opportunity. Approval has been given to engage Mr. Steve Vander Weele as a temporary supply in the English department during the absence of Dr. Zylstra.

b. Dr. Henry Bruinsma also has been greatly honored, and Calvin with him, in that he has been invited to serve as Visiting Professor of Musicology at the School of Music of the University of Michigan during the absence of the department's head. The Board has granted a leave of absence to Dr. Bruinsma and empowered the president to engage a temporary replacement for the Music Department.

c. Approval is sought for the following appointments in addition to those mentioned in our previous report.

1. Mr. Henry De Wit was given a teaching appointment with faculty status for a two-year term in the Department of Economics and Sociology. (Rank is yet to be determined).

2. Mr. Robert Otten was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in Latin.

3. Curriculum. Approval has been voted for a new course in "Speech Correction" and also one to be called "Thespian Production" in the Speech Department. Four new courses have been approved in the Bible Department: "Romans," "Reformed Truth and Modern Theological Situation," "Missions," and "Christian Evidences."

#### 4. *Students.*

a. Commencement was again held at the Civic Auditorium. The Reverend Jacob Eppenga was chosen as the commencement orator, and delivered a well-worded oration on "God Bless You."

It is to be noted that this year our students have received a greater number of significant scholarships than during any preceding year. These are honors conferred upon the students, but also upon the entire college.

b. Enrollment prospects for the next semester are encouraging. Should our enrollment follow the national trend we should have a slight increase.

c. Classis Grand Rapids South notified the Board in a communication that they are sending an overture to Synod seeking a change in the decision of Synod of 1949 regarding the church membership of out-of-town Calvin students. They suggest the possible solution of having students maintain membership in their home church, but being placed under the spiritual care of a Grand Rapids church with a temporary "student certificate."

It was decided to send the following as our reaction to Synod:

a. The Board declares its general agreement with the plan altho it believes that ideally speaking it is better that the student's membership be transferred according to the decision of 1949.

b. The Board further suggests to Synod that it be the responsibility of the local consistory that this rule be carried out.

c. It finally advises Synod that the school shall be requested, before the beginning of each school year, to notify all the churches outside of the Grand Rapids area of this rule.

d. Foreign Student Sponsorship. Because repeated requests have come in from worthy foreign students who desire to study at our school but who lack the required sponsorship, the Board, after having given considerable study to the problems involved, presents the following overture to Synod:

"A. That Synod appoint a committee on Sponsorship of Foreign Students at Calvin College and Seminary, preferably a small committee, and within easy communication with each other and the school.

*Reasons:*

(1) Repeatedly during the last two or three years the admission officers have been compelled to refuse admission to orthodox Christian students from such countries as the Netherlands, Korea, and Ceylon, because the administrators of Calvin College and Seminary are not in a position to act as sponsors for such students.

(2) It is beyond the function of College and Seminary to secure such sponsorship and financial aid. The College and Seminary, however, are vitally interested in the problem.

(3) We feel that such consideration for foreign students presents excellent opportunities to witness for our Reformed faith, and to assist the younger other Reformed churches to spread the Reformed faith in foreign lands.

(4) Such a committee is necessary since the boundary lines of duty and authority of boards such as the Mission Board, South America and Ceylon, Korean Spiritual Relief, and other relief agencies are not sufficiently well defined to permit an appeal to any such groups.

B. That Synod authorize this committee to secure individual sponsors for such students who are qualified for admission by the College or the Seminary.

C. That Synod authorize this committee to seek support for any individual sponsor in the event such sponsorship involve the sponsor in a burdensome financial obligation.

D. That Synod authorize this committee to apply, if need be, to various churches or group of churches for financial aid to needy foreign students, studying with us under a foreign student sponsorship. This aid to be sought only for foreign students who train for ministerial or missionary work outside of the United States.

(The terms 'sponsorship' and 'foreign students' are herein used as defined by U.S. law)."



#### IV. PLANT OPERATION

A. *Gifts.* A valuable art collection has been received from the estate of a certain John Detling of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, through the intercession of a loyal and alert supporter of Calvin in that city. Part of the collection is on display in the newly opened Commons Building.

One of our own lay members has sent in a collection of 400 books for our library. Both this and the gift from the Detling estate have been acknowledged with gratitude.

B. *Expansion.* The Alumni Association has approached the Board with a plan whereby properties between our two campuses would be acquired over a long period of time and so eventually tie the two properties together. The Board has endorsed the idea of beginning soon with the acquisition of the properties. Moreover, the Board is minded to encourage the Alumni Association to assist in the financing of the purchase of some or all of the properties, which they have indicated they are eager to do.

We are not ready as yet to propose plans for any new structures on the east campus, though some preliminary work has been done with a view to erecting dormitories there. However, the Board has decided to maintain the style of architecture of the present buildings in the buildings to be erected on the east campus.

Remodeling of facilities in the Administration Building for our business and academic office expansion is contemplated during this summer.

#### C. *Finance.*

1. Our insurance needs have been reassessed and policies reallocated under a new plan whereby more of our constituency will be enabled to serve us. An insurance coordinator has been retained to supervise this complex task.

2. In keeping with Synod's instruction last year, provision has been made for the professors who no longer are with us as required. (Art. 191, 5 Acts 1952).

3. The Board has given approval to a new schedule of tuition rates, which have been upped slightly for those of our denomination and sharply for those not of our denomination. Other fees have been raised correspondingly (Appendix E). Synod is asked to give its approval.

4. Decision has been made to incorporate present cost of living increases of our teaching and administrative personnel in the salary. Other than the normal increment for years of service and a few readjusted salaries as will be noted in the budget submitted, no increase in salaries is proposed. Maximum fringe benefits (hospitalization, surgery, medical, etc.) have been approved at a cost of approximately

\$15,000.00. Approval is sought for the proposed budget (see Appendix F, in abbreviated form) amounting to \$698,410.00. A detailed budget will be presented to Synod's special Committee on Budgets.

5. The Board requests approval of a quota of ten dollars per family, the same as last year, for Calvin College and Seminary for 1954.

#### D. *Pension*

1. Change of rules. The Board endorses a petition signed by over 75% of the faculty requesting that Section XII of the rules and regulations of the Pension Fund, adopted in 1952 be altered as follows:

1. Deletion of the three words: "and members of," in Section XII--Administration of the Fund.

2. Change the fourth line to read: "three members to be appointed by the college faculty."

This change will allow non-faculty members and non-Board members to serve on the Pension Board.

2. Decision was made to grant the request of the college faculty that Mr. Gordon Buter, our business manager, be declared eligible to the Faculty Pension Plan.

3. Non-faculty pensions. The Pension Committee reported that they have made considerable study of a revised pension plan for non-faculty employees whereby it could be combined with social security. Group insurance plans also were studied. After careful comparison the committee favored the revised plan which it submitted to the Board. The employees, however, voted for a plan offered by the Occidental Insurance Company.

The Board decided to concur with the non-faculty members in dissolving the old pension plan and to recommend the plan as chosen by the employees to Synod for approval. The Business Manager is available to give further explanation.

4. Mrs. D. H. Kromminga. Since it was brought to our attention that a new request has had to be made each year to Synod for an appropriation of additional funds to supplement the pension of Mrs. D. H. Kromminga, and since Synod of 1947 already instructed the Board "to devise ways and means in conjunction with the Calvin College Pension Committee of providing for her future needs" (Acts 1947, page 20) the Board has decided to refer this matter to the Finance Committee for permanent settlement. This committee is also to consider the provisions to be made for certain emeriti professors who were emeritated before the present Pension Plan went into effect. This committee has not been able to take action as yet and therefore Synod should repeat its decision as found in Acts, 1952, Article 139, III, relative to these special cases.

5. Committee Personnel. The terms of Mr. T. Noordewier, Rev. James Futt, and Prof. H. Dekker, expire at this time. The Faculty has reappointed the last named and the Board reappointed Mr. T. Noordewier and appointed Mr. L. Bere in the place of Reverend Futt, who is retiring from the Board this year. (All terms run for four years).

As those, who "behold Jesus crowned with glory and honor," we have sought to carry on the work assigned by Synod. We have endeavored to be well pleasing to Him, who is our King. For we know that if we have pleased Him, we shall have served Synod, the Church and our School the best.

May God grant Synod the grace to lean hard on the Spirit of Christ, who leads in all truth.

Humbly submitted,  
*Board of Trustees*  
*Calvin College and Seminary*  
 J. T. HOLWERDA, Secretary

### Appendix C

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON METHOD OF APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF SEMINARY PROFESSORS

##### *Mandate*

**Y**OUR committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees at its meeting of May, 1952, upon the decision of that board to "appoint a committee to make a thorough study of the whole method of appointment and tenure of seminary professors." (Art. 103, Minutes of May, 1952)

At this same meeting "a communication from Dr. John Kromminga re the possibility of using seminary students as assistants for teaching under the seminary professors" was read, and was upon decision of the board referred to this committee. (Art. 165, May, 1952)

Synod of 1952 approved this action of the Board of Trustees (Acts of Synod 1952: Art. 193, II C) and referred to this committee the following overtures:

Overture #10: "In view of the existing 'Seminary Situation' Classis Sioux Center overtures Synod to appoint a committee to restudy the whole matter of nominating professors in the Seminary looking forward to an earlier nomination of candidates for eventual vacancies and the avoidance of hasty nominations from the floor of Synod ending in the election of such nominees of the same Synod."

Overture #30: "The Council of the Burton Heights Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, respectfully overtures the

1952 Synod that Synod and the Board of Trustees exercise increasing scrutiny and vigilance in considering the doctrinal convictions, other views and sympathies, and attitudes, of prospective professors and instructors, and of present professors and instructors at Calvin College and Seminary, in connection with appointments, tenures of service, and re-appointments."

Overture #35: "Classis Grand Rapids East overtures Synod that the Board of Trustees and Synod exercise increasing scrutiny in considering the doctrinal principles and personal sympathies of present and prospective professors in Calvin College and Seminary, so that the confidence of the Church may be retained."

#### *Historical Background*

Regulations governing the appointment and tenure of seminary professors have been considered by the Board of Trustees and by our Synods at various times during the comparatively long history of Calvin College and Seminary. A complete review of all the decisions pertaining to this matter can hardly be incorporated in this report. Neither is this necessary. A brief summary can serve as an adequate background for this report and for the recommendations of your committee.

The decisions of our Synod deal largely with the requirements of candidates and with appointment procedures. The requirements stipulated are:

1. Nominees should preferably be ordained men who have had some experience in the ministry of the Word.
2. Appointees should have had a full college course or its equivalent and special preparation in the departments for which they are appointed.

They may also be allowed a year or more of special study in preparation for their work. (Acts of Synod: 1910, page 44; 1924, page 21; 1926, page 106)

The appointment procedure developed through the years includes three steps:

1. When a theological professor is to be appointed, the Board of Trustees prepares and submits a nomination to Synod. This nomination is made only after a conference with the theological faculty. Synod is not limited to the nomination of the Board of Trustees.
2. Nominations are to be published in the church papers at least twice before Synod meets.
3. Professors are appointed initially for a two year period. The first reappointment is for six years and the second for an in-

definite period. (Acts of Synod: 1894, page 44; 1902, page 138; 1914, page 25; 1922, page 13; 1924, pages 32 and 35; 1930, pages 20-21; 1943, page 18)

The minutes of the Board of Trustees especially of the last few years, reveal considerable concern about tenure and appointment practices. The question of continuing the policy of granting indefinite appointments was considered. (See Minutes: Art. Oct. 12, 1950; Art. 19 and 20, Jan. 11, 1951; Art. 33 and 93, Feb. 7, 1951; Art. 14, Dec. 13, 1951; Art. 114, Feb. 13, 1952; Art. 103, May, 1952)

The advisability of changing appointment procedures in order to obtain better qualified candidates was also considered. The following possibilities are mentioned in the Minutes: having local consistories suggest candidates, requesting Synod to refrain from adding to the nomination the names of candidates that have not been screened by the Board of Trustees, and arranging for temporary lectureships. (See Minutes: Art. 113, May, 1951; Art. 17, Nov. 8, 1951; Art. 115, Feb. 13, 1952; Art. 1, May, 1952)

#### *Prevailing Practices*

Your committee made a survey of the practices in the following seminaries: Fuller, Kampen, Western, Westminster, and Vrije Universiteit.

With respect to *tenure* we learned that at Fuller and Western Seminaries initial appointments are made for two year periods. After the two years period indefinite tenure becomes effective. At Westminster Seminary the assistants and instructors are appointed for one year terms but are eligible for reappointments. Those who have attained higher rank have indefinite tenure. At the other two seminaries the appointees are immediately given indefinite tenure.

With respect to *appointment procedures* we found very little uniformity of practice. From the correspondence available it was difficult to determine any prevailing practice.

The procedure followed in Calvin College is clearly set forth in the Acts of Synod 1952, page 57. Briefly the procedure is as follows:

1. Names of candidates for nomination are submitted by faculty members and/or the Educational Policy Committee.
2. The Educational Policy Committee with the members of the Department for which the nomination is being made screens the candidates and makes the nomination. Candidates are interviewed by this committee. The nomination is announced to the faculty to allow for possible objections.
3. The nomination is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.
4. The Executive Committee presents the nomination to the Board of Trustees. The Board approves or rejects the nomi-

nation. If the nomination is approved, the Board usually interview the nominees and makes an appointment.

5. The Board of Trustees submits the name of the appointee to Synod for approval.

### *Recommendations*

After giving due consideration to the historical development of the problem of appointment and tenure of seminary professors and deliberating upon the unique character of our seminary as it bears upon this problem, your committee makes the following recommendations:

- I. That the following requirements be set up for candidates for the instructional staff of the seminary.

#### *A. Personal*

- 1) He must be thoroughly sound in doctrine and possess a consuming zeal for the Reformed faith.

- 2) He must be truly militant in the defense of the Reformed faith against heresy. Article 18 of the Church Order properly stresses this requisite in the following words: "The office of the Professor of Theology is to expound the Holy Scriptures and to vindicate sound doctrine against heresies and errors."

- 3) He must excel in that virtue which Scripture designates as being "of a sound mind." He must be well balanced and free from fanaticism; that is, he may not stress one truth at the expense of another but must do justice to the entire system of doctrine known as the Reformed faith.

- 4) He must be truly godly and must excel particularly in the basic Christian virtues of complete honesty and genuine humility.

- 5) He must possess a large measure of pedagogical competency; that is, he must be an able teacher on the seminary level.

#### *B. Academic*

- 1) He must be truly learned in the sense that he has received a broad liberal arts education as well as a thorough theological training.

- 2) He must have had special training in the field for which he is nominated.

- 3) He must give evidence of being a scholar, having the ability to express himself with accuracy and to engage in original research.

- 4) He must have a thorough acquaintance with contemporaneous theological thought, both Reformed and otherwise.

#### *C. Ministerial*

- 1) He should preferably be an ordained man who has had some ministerial experience.

- II. That the following ranks and tenure provisions for the seminary instructional staff be established:

A. *Professor*

- 1) He must meet requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.
- 2) He must have established a reputation as a competent teacher of theology.
- 3) He shall be given indefinite tenure.
- 4) If he has not previously been installed as professor of theology, he shall be so installed as soon as he undertakes his work.

B. *Associate Professor*

- 1) He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.
- 2) He shall be appointed initially for a term of 2 years. Reappointment shall be for a term of 4 years.
- 3) He shall, after having served acceptably for six years in our seminary, be eligible for the rank of professor with indefinite tenure. This period may be reduced to four years in exceptional cases. Recommendations to the rank of professor are made by the Board of Trustees to Synod.
- 4) He shall be installed as a theological professor as soon as he undertakes his work.

C. *Instructor*

- 1) He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.
- 2) He is to receive an interim appointment for one year with the possibility of having the appointment renewed.
- 3) He shall attend faculty meetings and may participate in discussions but shall not be entitled to vote.

D. *Lecturer*

- 1) He must meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.
- 2) He is to be appointed for a limited time under special arrangements and has no faculty status.

Synod may, either with or without the advice of the Board of Trustees, remove a teacher of whatever rank when it has become convinced that such removal is necessary for the best interests of the seminary. Before such removal is effected, however, the teacher in question shall have the right to defend his conduct of his office. Preliminary to and pending such investigation, a teacher may temporarily be suspended by action of the Board of Trustees.

### III. That the following procedure for making appointments be adopted:

- A. The need for additional teaching help or eventual replacements

shall be reviewed annually by the Seminary President and the Board of Trustees at its May meeting.

B. When the need for an appointment has been established, this need shall be referred to a standing committee on appointments. This committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, shall consist of three members of the Board of Trustees, the President of the Seminary, and another member of the Seminary faculty. The chairman of the committee shall be designated by the Board of Trustees.

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep informed about and to collect complete data on prospective candidates for teaching positions in the seminary. Recommendations may be made to this committee at any time by members of the Board of Trustees, Consistories, Classes, and the seminary faculty. The data collected by the committee shall include information on the candidate's ability to meet the requirements for the instructional staff of the seminary.

C. The Standing Committee on Appointments shall report at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees as to all qualified candidates for the specified position(s).

D. At this February meeting, the Standing Committee on appointments having rendered its report, the Board of Trustees shall decide on the advisability of recommending a regular appointment for professor or associate professor, an interim appointment for instructor, or a lectureship.

E. Lectureship and interim appointments are to be recommended when the Board of Trustees is not ready to recommend a regular appointment. Lectureships and interim appointments are to be submitted to Synod for approval.

F. If a regular appointment is contemplated the following rules shall prevail:

- 1) A nomination shall be made consisting ordinarily of two names.
- 2) The nomination shall be made at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees so as to give the Church ample time for consideration and to express possible objections.
- 3) The nomination shall be published twice in the church papers.
- 4) Candidates shall, if at all feasible, be interviewed personally by the Board of Trustees before being nominated.

G. The nomination shall be presented to Synod. If Synod is not satisfied with the nomination, it shall refer the matter to the Board of Trustees for a new nomination. Synod may make an interim appointment until a regular appointment is made.

H. As a rule regular appointments shall be for the rank of associate professor.



Your committee recommends to the Board of Trustees:

1. That the procedure recommended in this report be adopted as the Board's policy for appointing seminary professors.
2. That the rules listed superseded all previous rules governing appointment and tenure of seminary professors.
3. That this report be considered as an answer to the overtures referred to the committee by Synod insofar as they apply to the seminary. Your committee limited itself to tenure and appointment procedure in the seminary since the Board gave this as the mandate, and because the Acts 1952, page 57, include a rather lengthy document relative to the procedure prevailing in the college, which the Board feels is adequate.
4. That this report be forwarded to Synod for approval.

Adopted May, 1953.

Sincerely submitted,

E. J. TANIS

J. T. HOLWERDA

R. B. KUIPER

J. A. VAN BRUGGEN

### Appendix D

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON METHOD OF APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF SEMINARY PROFESSORS

Your committee recommends the following salary schedule for the seminary instructional staff:

Professor .....	\$6,050.00
Associate Professor — Minimum .....	5,150.00
Maximum .....	5,900.00
Annual Increment.....	150.00
Instructor                            Minimum .....	4,300.00
Maximum.....	4,900.00
Annual Increment.....	150.00

Lecturer — Salary to be fixed in each instance by the Board of Trustees.

E. J. TANIS

J. T. HOLWERDA

J. A. VAN BRUGGEN

R. B. KUIPER

**Appendix E**

**ART. 65 TUITION CHANGES APPROVED**

- a. That the locker fee of fifty cents be eliminated.
- b. That an organizational fee of \$5.00 maximum per semester be included in the tuition, and a health service fee of \$2.50 per semester.
- c. That the tuition rates be set according to the following schedule in the college :

Non-Christian Reformed .....	\$210.00 per semester
Christian Reformed:	
Local Zone, 1 per family.....	140.00
2 or more per fam...	120.00
Zones 1, 2, 3: 1 per family.....	125.00 per semester
2 or more per fam...	105.00
Zones 4 and 5; 1 per family.....	95.00 per semester
2 or more per fam...	75.00
Zones 6, 7, and 8.....	60.00 per semester

- d. That the tuition rates for Canada, Foreign and unclassified students be increased proportionately.

*Canadian Students.*

For students residing in Canada, members of the Christian Reformed Church, the tuition shall be calculated on the basis of the province in which each resides.

*Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec Provinces.*

For students residing in these provinces the tuition is \$95.00 per semester. For two students from one family residing in these provinces the tuition for each is \$75.00 per semester.

*Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan Provinces.*

For students residing in these provinces the tuition is \$60.00 per semester. This is the minimum tuition.

*Foreign Countries.* (parents not missionaries).

For students from foreign countries other than Canada, who are members of a Reformed Church, the tuition is \$60.00 per semester as long as the student is in the United States on a student visa. If the foreign student intends to become a citizen of the United States, and has taken out his papers, he will receive the reduced rate for only two semesters after making out his first papers, after which time his rate will be based on the zone in which he lives in the United States.

- e. That certain fees as proposed by the Finance Committee be increased, i.e., excess hours fee increased from ten to twelve dollars per hour; unclassified students to pay at rate of \$15.00 for each semester-hour; Members of the Christian Reformed Church, \$10.00.

- f. That a committee be appointed to study the tuition rates in the seminary and that refunds to the new class entering the seminary this fall and for the future be eliminated.

## Appendix F

## REVENUE

	Budget 1952-1953	Budget 1953-1954
<i>Classical Payments, 1953-1954—</i>		
1953 @ \$10.00 60% (41,045 families).....		\$246,270.00
1954 @ \$10.00 40% (42,500 families).....		170,000.00
Total .....	\$342,657.00	\$416,270.00
Short of Quota 5%.....	15,000.00	20,800.00
Total Income from Quota.....	\$327,657.00	\$395,470.00
<i>Tuition and Fees—</i>		
College Regular (1125 @ \$284).....	\$251,850.00	\$263,250.00
College Summer .....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Seminary .....	5,200.00	4,500.00
Total Tuition and Fees.....	\$267,050.00	\$277,750.00
Less Scholarships .....	4,500.00	5,000.00
Net Tuition and Fees.....	\$262,550.00	\$272,750.00
<i>Other Income—</i>		
Investment Income .....	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,000.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	2,730.00	5,000.00
Musical Activities— A Cappella .....	3,000.00	4,000.00
Band & Orchestra .....	2,000.00	3,000.00
Music Festival .....	1,750.00	1,750.00
Music Conference .....		750.00
Financial Secretary .....		3,000.00
	\$ 16,980.00	\$ 25,500.00
Total Estimated Revenue.....	\$607,187.00	\$693,720.00

## EXPENSES

	Budget 1952-1953	Budget 1953-1954
<i>Salaries—</i>		
College Instructional .....	\$271,470.00	\$283,012.50
College Administrative .....	35,360.00	36,610.00
College Office .....	17,410.00	20,410.00
Summer School .....	10,000.00	10,000.00
	\$334,240.00	\$350,032.50
Library .....	24,632.50	27,022.50
Seminary Instructional .....	50,000.00	55,500.00
Seminary Office .....		2,500.00
Business Office .....	22,600.00	37,020.00
Physical Plant .....	35,300.00	39,250.00
Total Salaries.....	\$466,772.50	\$511,325.00

*Supplies* —

College .....	\$ 35,550.00	\$ 36,750.00
Seminary .....	1,940.00	3,340.00
Business Office .....	24,900.00	28,300.00
Physical Plant .....	27,200.00	43,280.00
Library .....	11,150.00	12,700.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Supplies.....	\$100,740.00	\$124,370.00
Furniture and Equipment.....	2,500.00	9,540.00
Pension, Soc. Sec., Emeritus, Insurance.....	34,500.00	53,175.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Estimated Expenses.....	\$604,512.50	\$698,410.00

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 13**

(Art. 96)

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**THE AMERICAN HOME BIBLE LEAGUE**

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DEAR BRETHREN:

The American Home Bible League has again experienced a most wonderful year. It was privileged to continue placing Bibles not only in the Bibleless homes of America but in the homes of many foreign countries as well.

Many new avenues have opened up and new challenges accepted. It is quite impossible in this brief report to relate to you all the work that has been done and all of the events that have taken place during the year. Much of this information has been made available to you through the "Sower," official publication of the League.

I would like to mention a few outstanding events of the year. First, the official beginning of the Ceylon Home Bible League on September 21, 1952 in the Prospect Street Christian Reformed Church of Passaic, New Jersey with the dedication of 1,000 Bibles. This initial allotment is being distributed under the direction of our own Reverends John and Clarence Van Ens to many former members of the Dutch Reformed Church who have drifted away due to liberalism.

Another opportunity which presented itself was the placement of several hundred Bibles in our Federal and State prisons. These institutions in the Mid-West area alone contain approximately 150,000 inmates.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-two has been a banner year for both Bible distribution and finances. More Bibles were distributed in the United States than in any other previous year. In Japan Bible distribution reached 65,541. In India 69,066 Scriptures were placed. The work of Bible distribution has been started in Africa on our own mission field and on the east coast of Africa by the Swedish Covenant Mission. Distribution of Scriptures in Canada also has been most extensive. In addition to all this, the work has been carried on in Mexico, South America, the Philippines, Greece and Turkey and now requests are coming in for Scriptures for China and Hawaii.

In regard to finances, the Board was able to meet its budget of \$100,000.00. Certainly God's blessing was evident in this respect. The World Bank program has brought in much money for Scripture dis-

tribution. A detailed financial statement for the year will be submitted to Synod by the League office.

It was my privilege to attend many of the Board meetings. We were again inspired by the reports given and by the tremendous challenge for all of us to be "Sowers of the Word."

We urgently request that Synod again recommend this cause to our churches for their prayers and gifts.

Respectfully submitted,  
G. VANDE WERKEN

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 14**

(Arts. 96, 128)

**THE BACK TO GOD HOUR****ESTEEMED BRETHERN:**

It is time for your Committee to give an account of its activities carried on in your behalf. We trust that the delegates to Synod will peruse these pages, and that all the office-bearers of our church will take cognizance of these lines, in order that all may be conversant with our radio ministry, and render to God hearty thanksgiving for His unmerited favors.

Our Mandate is found in the Acts of Synod of 1952, Article 90 and the Committee appointed is found on page 112.

**I. ADMINISTRATION****A. *Radio Committee:***

At the first meeting our President welcomed the new members appointed by Synod, namely, Rev. W. Kok, Rev. J. Zandstra, Mr. J. Hamstra, and J. H. Fles. We greatly miss Rev. Henry Baker and Mr. Jacob De Jager, who served on the committee since the inception of our denominational radio ministry, along with Rev. John Ehlers and Mr. Peter Damsma who served several years. The new members have taken an active interest and we know that they will enjoy their labors. Rev. D. H. Walters was chosen to serve as President; the Rev. William Kok as Vice-President; Rev. Edward B. Pekelder as Secretary; and our efficient Treasurer, Mr. Lambert Bere was re-elected to serve. Your committee is indebted to the Consistory of the Auburn Park church for using its church facilities for our meetings.

**B. *The Radio Office.***

We have informed Synod in our last reports about the serious lack of office space for our ever-growing radio ministry. We have considered various possibilities, such as erecting our own building, or have someone erect an office building for us to rent. However, we are grateful to report that we are now located in a building on the corner of 109th Street and Michigan Avenue in Roseland, Chicago 28, Illinois. This is the building that was discussed at last Synod. It has been quite a job to get the remodeling done at reasonable prices and within a reasonable amount of time. The office occupies 2,500 square feet, and we believe it is an excellent solution to our problem. The money spent on our investment is a good one, for eventually the building will belong to our church, if present negotiations with the owner can be satisfactorily completed.

### C. *The Radio Stations.*

Mutual Broadcasting Company has over 500 stations. Each Lord's Day we use but 300 of these stations. This is partly due to the fact that our Budget does not allow us to carry additional stations. At the beginning of this season we decided: first, with increased receipts to take advantage of the opportunities that come to us over Mutual; second, to take on stations outside of the network, and strive to assist our Home Missionaries who are laboring in certain localities. Thus e.g. it was decided to sign a contract with Station WJLK at Asbury Park, New Jersey at the request of Missionary Paul Holtrop. WKRC at Cincinnati, Ohio was added to our list since November 1. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Springfield Illinois were also added.

As far as our Canadian field is concerned we are able to report that at present we are broadcasting over four stations in Canada, and we hope to be successful in adding others, especially in Alberta, in the near future.

### D. *The Radio Minister.*

The Rev. Peter Eldersveld entered upon his seventh year as our Radio Minister. On Sunday, September 7, he returned to the air with a stirring message based on Psalm 96:10, "Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth." We are grateful unto God for this talented radio preacher whose messages have stirred hearts, strengthened the weak, comforted the sorrowing, instructed the ignorant, and pleaded with men and women to return unto God. Our Secretary has furnished the Banner column with his Back to God Hour Flashes and you have some idea of the mail responses. People of all walks of life listen regularly to our broadcast. Undenominationalists, Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and thousands who do not attend any church have written in telling of blessings received. Our program is in many ways unique. People appreciate this distinctiveness. We believe that much of this is due to our gifted radio minister and the messages he brings. In December, 1952, he received a challenging call extended by the LaGrave Avenue congregation of Grand Rapids, but was led to decline it and remain with the radio ministry.

We take this opportunity sincerely to thank the Rev. Harold Dekker, Minister of Radio Evangelism, who again substituted for our radio pastor during the months of July and August.

### E. *The Radio Choir.*

We believe that our Choir is indispensable to our radio broadcast. Our Choir adds dignity to our program and we know that hundreds are spiritually benefited by the songs which they render from week to week. Their appearance at various Rallies is greatly appreciated by your Committee as well as by those who attend. We are happy to re-



port to Synod that the Consistory of the Calvin church decided to begin its morning service a half-hour later so that we may use the College Chapel for our regular Sunday morning broadcast. The quality of this organ and the acoustics of the Auditorium are in every way superior to those of the Seminary building. We are grateful for this change.

## II. RESPONSE TO OUR PROGRAM.

### A. *Radio Mail.*

During 1952 our office counted 62,284 pieces of mail received from every State of the Union, every province in Canada. Our Secretary often quotes the figures and we note with gratitude the large number of responses which we receive from states where none of our congregations are found. In view of the early morning hour of our broadcast we cannot say that television has created serious competition as yet, although many other radio programs have lost part of their audience through the introduction of television. On our permanent mailing list we now find 12,000 names, many of which are ministers of the Word and other leaders. We know that many a pulpit excerpts from our radio minister's messages will be found.

### B. *Follow-up Work:*

1. *Minister of Radio Evangelism.* In harmony with Synod's decision the Rev. Harold Dekker, engaged by the General Committee for Home Missions, has continued to spend some of his time in behalf of the Radio work. We are especially indebted unto him for his active interest in stimulating others to become engaged in local radio evangelism. Bulletins are sent out to all our ministers containing suggestions and ideas. As a result in many of our smaller communities hundreds of our members are engaged in inviting the unchurched to our radio broadcasts, to our Sunday Schools and our church services. May we quote one paragraph from Bulletin No. 7, "Radio evangelism is being carried on most vigorously and effectively in the small, isolated churches and on the home mission frontiers. It is ironical that our "strongest" churches, that is strongest in numbers, in finance, in tradition and prestige, are usually the weakest in radio evangelism. Those who are the best equipped are frequently the least active. Many of you in young, small, struggling churches and mission groups are setting the pace for the denomination. Our congratulations and humble thanks to you. We are doing our best to make your example contagious to some of our seemingly indifferent big-sister churches."

2. Report of Rev. Dekker — "Follow-up work has once again been conducted according to the three-point program adopted by Synod.

a) *Public meetings and Rallies* — Each year more listeners are reached in this way. In several communities these rallies have become

a regular event. One of the most significant developments during the past year was moving our annual New York City Rally into Carnegie Hall. This distinguished auditorium was filled with 2,500 eager people — both New Yorkers and members of our nearby churches. In the course of time these Rallies should be expanded into preaching missions for longer periods.

b) *Use of the mail* — Significant steps have been taken to expand this phase. *The Listeners' Digest* is planned. It is to be a quarterly compilation of articles selected from various Reformed periodicals, selected with a view to serving the general interests of our radio listeners better than any one magazine can do. This venture is also self-supporting. In cooperation with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church we are also introducing a series of pamphlets on doctrinal themes to meet the growing demand of our listeners. Our own church does not publish these longer doctrinal tracts. A third effort to make the Reformed faith known by the printed page is the distribution of lists of recommended books — for the home, the pastor, the Sunday School teacher, the student, etc.

c) *Personal contact* — Gradually our churches are taking a larger and more vigorous part in this direct contact with listeners. Many large canvasses have been organized. Once again a few Seminary students were used during the summer for this work. The work has been consolidated somewhat at the new home mission fields opened through radio evangelism. No new fields could be opened, however, because most of those where work has been started are as yet unmanned. Consequently many promising opportunities must be passed by.

### 3. *Family Altar.*

Our monthly mailing list of families reading this devotional booklet is near 68,000. It continues to grow gradually week by week, and we are grateful for the wonderful response it receives. God is using it to establish and maintain regular family worship in thousands of homes.

## III. FINANCES

A. We are attaching the Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal year 1952. It will be observed that our churches have just about paid their quotas for 1952. The amounts received from extra offerings and from our church societies during the past year augments the quotas. We are grateful to God who has inclined the hearts of hundreds outside our church to contribute liberally during the past year. The amount received from this source is greater than ever before. No doubt sending our Radio Bulletin into some 115,000 homes is directly responsible for this increase. During 1952 increased support was received for our Family Altar. In addition we have continued to receive the financial

support of our Young Calvinist Youth Radio Fund, as well as from individual churches which undertake the cost of local broadcasts. Space will not permit us to acknowledge all these donors by name, but we want Synod to appreciate with us the fact that this support makes it possible for us to keep our request for quota at a much lower figure than our annual budget would require.

B. A complete report of our Treasurer, properly audited by the Wynn M. Wagner Company of Chicago, will be presented to the Synodical Budget Committee.

C. We will forward a Supplementary Treasurer's Report, covering the period from January 1, 1953 to June 1, 1953 D.V. when Synod convenes.

#### IV. TELEVISION

Since our experiment in television was not yet completed at the time of this writing, we will present a supplementary report on it when Synod convenes.

#### V. MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ACTION

All of these matters — including expressions of gratitude, proposed budget and quota, recommendations regarding television, and appointments to this Committee — will be presented in our Supplementary Report, which will be on hand when Synod convenes.

Wishing you God's choicest blessings in all your deliberations and decisions, and trusting that the Spirit of all wisdom guide you in these and in all other matters,

Humbly submitted,

D. H. WALTERS, <i>President</i>	H. HOVING
W. KOK, <i>Vice-president</i>	C. J. DEN DULK
E. B. PEKELDER, <i>Secretary</i>	R. O. DE GROOT
L. BERE, <i>Treasurer</i>	J. HAMSTRA
J. VAN'T HOF	J. ZANDSTRA
G. POSTMA	J. FLES

#### BACK TO GOD HOUR

Financial Report December 31, 1951 to December 31, 1952

##### RECEIPTS:

Synodical Quotas .....	\$244,021.84
Churches — Extra Offerings .....	1,195.70
Organizations (includes rallies) .....	20,938.82
Individuals .....	94,280.55
Other Receipts .....	1,421.47

\$361,858.38

##### DISBURSEMENTS:

Broadcasting:	
Mutual Network .....	\$196,109.70
Spot Stations and Recording .....	40,428.62

Salaries .....	27,613.17
Committee Expenses:	
Travel .....	2,455.35
Office:	
Supplies .....	1,448.87
Equipment .....	1,632.85
Rent .....	2,191.66
Phone, Light and Power.....	1,004.96
Travel .....	1,983.46
Choir:	
Music and Equipment .....	1,327.14
Travel .....	1,934.98
Repairs:	
Office (New Office) .....	4,888.96
Manse .....	298.98
Publicity:	
Messages .....	15,658.54
Postage .....	7,610.53
Other Printing .....	4,352.27
Advertising .....	3,395.24
Books and Periodicals (for distribution).....	689.56
Hall Rent .....	1,038.00
Tax Settlement on Manse .....	600.00
Insurance .....	349.33
Auto Allowance .....	350.00
Audit—no interest in 1952.....	110.80
Christmas Gifts .....	250.00
Adjustments (Refunds of money received in error, spurious checks) .....	291.73
Family Altar:	
Booklets .....	29,996.53
Postage .....	6,955.96
Writers .....	1,463.24
Newsletters (Printing and Postage, Mailing Service) .....	9,599.30
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$366,029.73</b>
Balance December 31, 1951 .....	\$ 5,131.51
Disbursements over Receipts for 1952.....	4,171.35
<b>Balance December 31, 1952 .....</b>	<b>\$ 960.16</b>

LAMBERT BERE, *Treasurer*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 14-A**

(Arts. 96, 128)

**THE BACK TO GOD HOUR****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

Pursuant to our report found in the Agenda, pp. 67-72, we present the following matters which require synodical action:

**I. WORD OF THANKS**

We recommend that Synod express a word of thanks to:

A. All those who have been active in the work of the broadcast, preparing and presenting the program, performing the work of the office, and conducting the follow-up work with the radio audience.

B. The four retiring committee members: Revs. D. H. Walters and E. B. Pekelder, and Messrs. Lambert Beré and Jacob Van't Hof. Your committee wishes to call Synod's attention to the fact that Rev. Walters has served as president of this committee from its very beginning, and has therefore made a very significant contribution throughout these 15 years of service to the cause of The Back to God Hour. Also, Rev. Pekelder has served almost continuously as secretary of the committee, carefully keeping our records and faithfully providing copy for publicity purposes in our church papers, as well as preparing our annual synodical reports. Furthermore, Mr. Beré has been our very able treasurer during the last seven years, and his experience and genius in financial matters have proved to be of tremendous value to this cause. We feel that these three men, all of them officers of this committee deserve a special word of appreciation. Obviously they have devoted much time to their tasks as officers and their service has been most valuable. Likewise Mr. Van't Hof, who has served during the years of our vast expansion, contributing his time and talent freely in helping to direct this witness of the church, and giving it the benefit of his experience in kingdom causes.

**II. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

We recommend the consideration of the following for appointment to this committee, one to be chosen from each pair of nominations.

Rev. Henry Baker.....Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Louis Dykstra....Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Aldrich Evenhouse..Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Gerrit H. Pals.....Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Arthur Hoogstrate

.....Holland, Mich.

Rev. John Schuurmann

.....Holland, Mich.

Mr. Gary Zuiderveen..Denver, Colo.

Mr. Peter Suwyn.....Denver, Colo.

### III. PROPOSED BUDGET AND QUOTA

We recommend the adoption of our proposed budget for 1954, which is attached; and we recommend that the quota per family be set at \$7.00. This is an increase of 50c per family over 1953. The budget will indicate that this increase is made necessary by the increased cost of operation due to the normal growth of the program in broadcasting and administration.

### IV. REALIGNMENT

We have taken cognizance of the majority and minority reports on Realignment, as found in the Agenda, and having considered them carefully, we beg leave to recommend that, whatever decisions Synod may find it necessary to make with respect to other committees and boards, the Radio Committee be instructed to continue to function independently as it has from its inception. Our reasons for this recommendation are as follows:

A. The record of this committee indicates that its work has been conducted effectively and efficiently under the present arrangement, so that the church's radio witness has been carried forward significantly. The broadcast has the love and support of our people. We see no reason for a change, nor any indication that a change would prove beneficial. On the other hand, we greatly fear that the realignment plan might be very upsetting to the present method of administration which has proved to be so successful.

B. The Back to God Hour has been designated as the voice of the church, and we feel that it should serve and represent the whole church in that capacity as much as possible. The realignment plan would limit the scope of this witness to the Home Mission witness, and make it specifically an agency for that branch of the church's work. But we also receive mail from foreign lands, and our foreign missionaries are using our printed messages and *Family Altar* booklets in this work. The possibility of extending the broadcast in the future to foreign stations is under consideration because of voluntary contributions promised for that purpose. That would make it increasingly a means to serve the Foreign Mission cause as well as the Home Mission cause. Moreover, our present follow-up program gives us opportunity to serve the educational and journalistic and tract interests of the church more extensively and intensively, and so that aspect of the broadcast is becoming more significant. These considerations indicate that the work of our committee pertains to other committees and boards of the church besides the Home Missions Committee, and that it would therefore be most illogical and inconsistent to localize it in any one of them.

C. The Radio Committee requires a carefully chosen personnel, for its work is highly specialized. Moreover, it is, and should be, con-

stituted of an equal number of ministers and laymen, who are chosen because of their interest in this work and their qualifications for it. The best method of assuring this careful selection is by synodical appointment. The realignment plan would place this work in a Committee made up of delegates from the Classes, who would not be chosen for this task alone but for a wide variety of Home Mission functions as well. And the present ratio of laymen and ministers would be almost impossible to maintain. It would be most difficult for the Classes to appreciate our particular problem and to choose men who understand it. Besides, the rapidly changing constituency of boards and committees so chosen, due to the moving of minister delegates, would work a severe hardship upon the unique ministry of the church. The present method of appointment from nominations submitted by your committee has proved very successful in the past. It has given us a committee which is not only representative of the church, but also capable of administering the radio work effectively and efficiently.

#### V. TELEVISION

We have completed two preliminary experiments in television, one in Chicago and one in New York, and on the basis of our findings we recommend that further experimentation be continued during the coming year, to be financed by contributions received from churches and individuals for that purpose.

A report on the Chicago and New York telecasts has appeared in *The Banner*, and it reveals that the programs were very well received. The mail response itself was highly gratifying, but the opinion of television experts was also most favorable.

However, we do not feel that our experience so far indicates the course which the church should follow in this field. In fact, we have not actually been able to carry out the experiment proposed to, and approved by, the Synod of 1952, namely, a 15 minute program. The Chicago program was a half-hour donated by station WGN-TV for three Sundays; and for practical reasons it was decided that the New York program should also be a half-hour period, for four Sundays, in which the actual format of the radio program could be tested. Now we feel that the 15 minute program plan should also be tried, and we are inclined to think that the previous two experiments make that trial all the more necessary. Moreover, one of our churches in Chicago (First Englewood) and several of our friends in the Paterson area have assured us that they are ready to provide the funds for these telecasts in their communities; and there may be others who have similar intentions.

Our plan is to present a 13-week series of quarter-hour programs in which the Word of God will be taught informally. There will be no

music except the recorded opening and closing theme. Presently we are considering the possibility of putting this series on film, and thus making it available to stations which are willing to donate free "public service" time for religious telecasts. We have been assured that such opportunities will be presented. But the film could also be aired on stations where time is purchased, thus avoiding the complications and expense of network telecasting, and meanwhile making it possible for us to choose any particular period of time in any station's television schedule.

We trust that Synod will authorize this continuation of the experiment approved by the Synod of 1952.

The supplementary financial report, covering the period from January 1 to April 30, 1953, is herewith submitted by our treasurer.

Trusting that the Spirit of God will guide and direct you in your task, and that this report will serve you in matters pertaining to the church's radio work.

Humbly submitted,

D. H. WALTERS, *President*

W. KOK, *Vice-President*

E. B. PEKELDER, *Secretary*

L. BERE, *Treasurer*

J. VAN'T HOF

G. POSTMA

H. HOVING

C. J. DEN DULK

R. O. DE GROOT

J. HAMSTRA

J. ZANDSTRA

J. H. FLES

**BACK TO GOD HOUR**

**Financial Report December 31, 1952 to April 30, 1953**

**Receipts:**

Synodical Quotas .....	\$ 106,488.83
Churches .....	657.36
Organizations .....	5,203.10
Individuals .....	28,859.31
Literature .....	1,448.39
Others .....	341.35

**Total Receipts**

**\$ 142,998.34**

**Disbursements:**

*Broadcasting:*

Mutual Network .....	65,401.49
Spot Stations & Recording.....	16,145.08
T. V. ....	1,927.08



<i>Salaries:</i>		
Radio Minister .....	1,585.52	
Radio Minister Auto Allowance.....	500.00	
Administrative & Clerical & Choir Director .....	9,700.24	
<i>Committee:</i>		
Travel .....	777.57	
<i>Office:</i>		
Supplies .....	792.77	
Equipment .....	852.01	
Rent .....	900.00	
Phone, light and power.....	488.69	
<i>Travel:</i>		
Rev. P. H. Eldersveld .....	1,180.01	
(includes choir tours)		
Others .....	239.35	
<i>Choir:</i>		
Music .....	13.02	
<i>Repairs &amp; Remodeling:</i>		
Office .....	2,587.37	
<i>Publicity:</i>		
Messages .....	5,143.42	
Postage .....	3,529.55	
Other Printing .....	2,139.51	
Advertising .....	434.97	
Hall Rent .....	200.00	
<i>Books and Periodicals</i> .....	533.20	
<i>Family Altar:</i>		
Printing .....	10,599.80	
Postage .....	2,625.00	
Writers .....	500.00	
<i>Literature:</i>		
Printing .....	1,499.15	
Postage .....	100.00	
<i>Newsletter:</i>		
Postage and Mailing .....	198.75	
Printing .....	1,535.00	
Insurance .....	62.80	
Adjustments — Spurious Checks .....	22.50	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$132,213.85</b>
Receipts over Disbursements	\$10,784.49	
Balance Dec. 31, 1952 .....	960.16	
Cash Balance April 30, 1953	11,744.65	

Lambert Beré, Treasurer.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 15**

(Arts. 113, 118)

**MISSION PRINCIPLES STUDY COMMITTEE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

This committee is pleased to bring its report to completion with the following sections:

**I. SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS**

The Synod of 1952 adopted the reports of the Mission Principles Study committee on Evangelism and Medicine in "spirit and general content". In view of their length, the Synod asked the committee to summarize the material of these reports in short propositions. The committee herewith submits its compliance with this request, but feels keenly their inadequacy as they stand by themselves. For this reason the committee suggests to Synod that the propositions listed below *be understood only in the light of the already adopted reports.*

**A. EVANGELISM**

1. Evangelism is that activity of the instituted Church which concerns itself directly with the missionary proclamation of the Gospel.

2. The evangelistic task is performed by preaching and teaching, i.e., the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel.

3. The missionary is not called to transmit his own culture to the mission field, but to proclaim the Gospel which itself has the power to vitalize all that is good and to excise all that is evil in the cultural life of the people he serves.

4. It is necessary for the missionary to know the religion, customs, and life of the people among whom he works in order to a relevant proclamation of the Gospel.

5. Since language is the door to the soul of a people, it must be mastered by the missionary, if the Gospel is to be effectively proclaimed by him.

6. The basic condition for baptism is faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. Where that is present and exemplified in life, baptism should not be unduly postponed in the interest of a high standard of doctrinal knowledge.

7. Continued nurture in the faith after baptism is as much a duty of the Church as pre-baptismal instruction.

8. The exercise of discipline is essential before, as well as after, the organization of a church.

9. The founding of congregations should take place as soon as the three marks of the Church can be maintained.

10. A church duly constituted has equal standing in dignity and law with all other churches. The sending church, recognizing this, will increasingly encourage the new church to assume her full responsibility.

11. Financial support of the younger churches by the sending church should be held to the minimum compatible with their spiritual welfare, while their self-support should be the maximum allowed by their economic situation.

12. Converts as prophets, priests, and kings under Christ, must be stimulated to witness to the faith that is in them by word and deed.

13. The training of natives for evangelistic work and the development of a native ministry is essential for the building up of an indigenous church.

14. The missionary proclamation of the Church rests for its power and effect wholly on the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### B. MEDICAL WORK

1. Medical Missions means the use of medical knowledge and skills in Christ's Name for alleviating sufferings in the Mission area to promote the Gospel.

2. As the healing ministry of Christ and the Apostles was miraculous in character, it does not furnish Scriptural validation for modern medical missions.

3. Its Biblical warrant is to be inferred from the mercy and compassion which must distinguish Christ's ambassadors who speak in His Name.

4. The Mission seeks to plant the life of love in heathendom and the ministry of medicine is well suited to express this love in the context of the evangelical witness.

5. Medical Missions aims at alleviating the sufferings in its area; at counteracting superstitions and the power of the medicine man; at making Christ known through the medical profession; at serving as a valuable and related auxiliary for proclaiming the Gospel; and at helping to break down resisting attitudes.

6. The medical department must be integrated with the total mission witness as it manifests the fullness and riches of the redeeming Christ.

7. The scope of the medical work must be governed by indigenous policies which reckon with native support and participation.

8. To be a worthy auxiliary in evangelism, the medical department must ever avoid the dangers of becoming an end in itself and of using high pressure methods of evangelism.

### C. EDUCATION

#### MAJORITY POSITION

##### *Preface*

With respect to Education, we read in the Acts of 1952, p. 65: "The advisory committee does not feel it would be wise that Synod express itself on the educational phase at this time. Our reasons are the following:

a. The study committee presents majority and minority reports which exhibit a wide divergence of opinion on the question of the place of educational missions. The basic positions are radically opposed to each other.

b. Both the majority and minority reports assert their respective convictions in phraseology which is in some cases rather extreme, which makes it undesirable for Synod to approve either in general spirit and thrust."

As an example of rather extreme language in the majority report the advisory committee gave the following: "It is proper for the Church in her work to use any means which is congenial to the Gospel." On this the committee made the following comment: "The only things excepted seemingly are things unethical, according to the examples adduced. The reiterated 'any means' seems to indicate that the emphasis is intended on this comprehensive approach rather than on the phrase 'congenial to the Gospel'".

The committee also gave a sample of rather extreme language in the minority report, but that does not concern us just now.

The committee recommended:

a. "That Synod do not declare itself on mission principles respecting education in missions at this time.

b. That the request of the study committee to be continued in order to complete its mandate be granted."

These were adopted (Acts, 1952, p. 66)

At this time the majority remarks the following:

1. In meetings of the advisory committee with representatives of the study committee, the thought was expressed that it might be well for the study committee to be given another year in order that the "rather extreme" phraseology which the advisory committee found in both reports on Education might once more be discussed and might possibly be toned down, and thus the divergence of thought might be reduced. This did not get into the decisions of Synod. However, knowing the thinking of the advisory committee, we did have some discus-

sion along that line, but soon found that there was no possibility of resolving the difference in thinking. Here is a difference of conviction which Synod will have to face.

2. The advisory committee found that the statement that the Church may use "any means which is congenial to the Gospel" is rather extreme and suggested that it be modified. The majority still feels that this is substantially correct. It realizes also that the statement as it stands is open to wrong interpretation. Perhaps it would be better to say that the Church is not limited to means directly indicated in the Bible. If Synod prefers that statement, we have no objection.

3. The advisory committee remarked that the majority excepted from things congenial to the Gospel only things unethical. The implication would be that anything which is ethically acceptable would be acceptable as a means for furthering the Gospel. We do not accept that interpretation. It is even conceivable that the same means might be congenial to the Gospel in one community and not in another. The Church is to judge of that. If it will in the judgment of the Church advance the cause of the Gospel, it may be used.

4. The advisory committee spoke of "this comprehensive approach" of the majority of the study committee. We like to point out that we have never used that term. In fact, we have consciously avoided it. We are aware that this term is being used by some with a content for which we take no responsibility. We are not sponsoring what is known as "the comprehensive approach," and we would prefer that in the discussion of our position that term be avoided.

5. The advisory committee did not recommend and Synod did not ask for summary statements on Education, as were asked for on Evangelism and Medical Missions. Thinking that nevertheless Synod would like to have them, we are giving them as follows:

1. Our Lord, in the Great Commission given in Matthew 28, bidding His Church make disciples of all nations, enjoined a form of teaching, that is, imparting and explaining the contents of the Gospel.

2. Of this teaching, children, as well as adults, are proper objects.

3. The Church, being in the state of maturity, has the right to determine by which methods she can effectively do this teaching; therefore, she is not limited to methods directly given in Scripture.

4. The Apostle Paul in carrying out his mission task went beyond methods used by Jesus, in that he used new things according to circumstances of his day. It follows that the Church in going forward may do the same.

5. Instances of the foregoing in modern times are education to literacy so that people may be able to read the Bible, and the use of

hospitals. There is no precedent for these in Scripture; yet by common consent they are considered proper because they enhance the Gospel. It follows that the Church may use other means that may effectively further the Gospel.

6. "Educational Missions", as commonly understood, is the effort to teach the Gospel and its application to all phases of life to children, also by the use of schools as an aid.

7. The fact that there is no precedent in the Bible for such use of schools does not mean that they may not be so used.

8. The principle of sphere sovereignty, while in general recognized as valid, and setting off the sphere of the Church from that of other institutions in life, does not posit an absolute separation of the spheres of life. It is balanced in this case by the principle that, if conducive to the execution of her task, the Church may do things which are not ordinarily part of her calling. (Cf. Church Order Commentary, Van Dellen and Monsma, p. 94) Therefore this principle does not as such forbid the use of schools in the service of the Gospel.

9. Specific instances of the application of this principle bearing on the matter of the Church and schools are:

a. The provision in Article 21 of our Church Order that "the Consistories shall see to it that there are good Christian schools in which the parents have their children instructed according to the demands of the covenant";

b. The fact that the Christian Reformed Church to this day maintains Calvin College;

c. The fact that in our Nigerian Mission field there are parochial schools supported jointly by the Church and the parents, until the parents shall be able to assume full responsibility;

d. The provision in the Minority report that the Church may help parents who have just emerged from paganism and who desire Christian Education for their children, to establish Christian Schools (Acts of Synod, 1952, p. 224)

10. The issue is therefore whether such schools as contemplated in this connection can be and are conducive to the propagation of the Gospel.

11. Pertinent to that question, the following may be urged:

a. Such schools impress youth with the Gospel in the most impressionable years of life;

b. They afford a broad opportunity to show the application of the Gospel to every sphere of life;

c. By developing the minds they can help effectively to promote a fuller comprehension of the Gospel;

d. They provide rootage for the church to be established by promoting a more intelligent membership;

e. They help to break down superstition and prejudice in given communities, and to fill resulting vacuums;

f. They establish a contact with parents and can serve to open the homes to the messengers of the Gospel;

g. They can plant the Gospel in the homes by teaching it to the children.

12. Since children are taken into such schools only with the consent of the parents, these schools do not encroach upon parental authority.

13. In the use of such schools, proper limitations must be observed:

a. The controlling thought should always be the propagation of the Gospel;

b. . . . Such schools should be established only, where in the judgment of the missionaries, that end can be served;

c. The extent of the curriculum should be determined by the needs of the community and the requirements of the local government;

d. In no case should the educational phase of a Mission in a given community overshadow the evangelistic effort.

14. Such use of schools fits properly with the concept of Christian Education.

#### MINORITY POSITION

1. This report is concerned with the *norms* by which education on the Mission field should be governed and acknowledges that existing situations may place restrictions on the full application of the norms.

2. By education, we understand Government recognized primary, secondary, and higher education.

3. Missions is the task of the Church in her institutional manifestation. Her activity in missions is therefore conditioned by the fact that the Church arises exclusively out of the redemptive work of Christ.

4. Education, on the other hand, does not arise out of redemption but out of the created order of things, as do the family, science, art, etc.

5. The preaching of the Church has meaning for all these activities but she does not herself engage in them. The Church may not therefore regard education as a task proper to herself.

6. Scripture gives no basis for the idea that educational missions should be used to "prepare" pagans for the reception of the Gospel.

7. Education roots in the natural order that God has created. Redemption brings it back to its true purpose.

8. Since the original purpose of education was not to convert the soul but rather to develop the God-fearing man for serving the God he already knows, the redeemed purpose of education cannot be different. We do not therefore believe that the work of conversion is a proper function of education.

9. Activities that are not proper to the work of the Church, as the Scripture defines her nature and functions, should not be considered proper for her to assume on the Mission field.

10. In the New Testament, preaching and teaching (see section on Evangelism) are limited to a direct transmission of the Gospel message.

11. If education is a legitimate agency for the Church to avail herself of in the work of evangelism, there is no reason in principle why other means should not similarly be adopted, such as, rural reconstruction; socio-economic counselling; recreation; and the like.

12. We do not therefore agree with the position of the Majority that whatever means are honorable may be used in the work of evangelism.

13. The limited personnel and resources of the Church should be used only in activities that are validated plainly by Scripture.

14. Education is primarily a parental responsibility. This is a universally valid principle.

15. Missionaries should therefore bring into being an educational structure that rests on a parental, that is, indigenous base.

16. When parents are willing, but unable to obey the injunction to give their children a Christian education, the Church represented on the Mission field may help them, subject to the following conditions: that the school belong to the parents; that it is truly an educational venture; that it effects a gradual withdrawal of missionary control; that its scope is determined by the economic resources of the Christian community; that its service is relevant to the needs of the community; and that it is a means for furthering the growth of the Christian community.

## II. REGULATIONS

We do not deem it within our mandate in this section to draft a complete set of regulations governing all phases of mission work in all our fields. Apart from the fact that life is constantly providing new situations requiring new regulations, this would be an unnecessary duplication of now existing regulations which have been found practicable, and are not affected by an emphasis on the indigenous approach to mission work. So we set forth only such regulations, whether new rules or amendments of the existing ones, as in our judgment are necessary to put into operation the principles arrived at in our study and accepted by the Synod.

Following the outline given in our mandate, attention is given to the following relationships:

The Church and her Board;

The Church and her Missionaries;

The Church and her duties to the Nationals;

The Church and her obligations to the native converts.



## A. THE CHURCH AND HER BOARD

1. The Board, being the agent of Synod, which has adopted principles of indigenous mission work, shall in the formulation of its policies and the execution thereof be guided and controlled by these principles.

2. The Board shall prepare and publish a Manual setting forth the policies which govern its work and the activities by which it seeks to carry out these policies, and present this Manual to Synod for approval.

3. The Board shall furnish all its members, missionaries, and new recruits with a copy of this Manual, all of whom are expected to be guided by it.

## B. THE CHURCH AND HER MISSIONARIES

1. *Ordained Missionaries.*

a. Ministerial candidates and pastors may volunteer for mission service to specific fields or be called thereto, by local churches in harmony with our Reformed practice.

b. Calling churches, if possible, shall make special contributions to the Board toward the salaries of these missionaries, and shall have the oversight of their doctrine and life.

c. Qualifications (as given in the Mission Order, Art. 7)

d. Before undertaking the work on a given field, the missionary (and his wife, if possible) shall be given time by the Board to:

- (1) Gain a working knowledge and use of the language of the natives with whom they expect to labor;
- (2) Become familiar with the history, customs, and national characteristics of the people in their prospective fields;
- (3) Take special courses in Mission history and principles so as to be fitly equipped for this specialized ministry and have a thorough understanding of the work expected of them.

e. Their work shall be under the direct supervision of the General Conference.

2. *Unordained Missionaries*

## a. Lay Evangelists

(1) Shall be appointed by the Board as assistants to the ordained missionaries, and shall be under their direct supervision.

(2) Qualifications: special aptitude for mission service, verified by academic training and actual experience; doctrinal fitness, verified by Consistory or Board; studious character; linguistic abilities; possessing initiative, tact, and co-operative spirit.

Age and health requirements: the same as apply to ordained missionaries.

- (3) May be supported by local churches, but their salaries are paid by the Board.
- b. Medical and Educational Workers.
  - (1) Shall be appointed by the Board.
  - (2) Qualifications: in addition to the acceptable standards for their respective professions and intended areas of service, the spiritual qualities of character so needed for mission work.
  - (3) May be supported by local churches, but their salaries are paid by the Board.
  - (4) Their work is supervised by General Conference through the departmental heads.

3. All missionaries are subject to the direction of the Board, yet are not to be regarded as employees in the ordinary sense. While the Board directs the work from the home base, the missionaries are doing the actual work on the field. They are in close contact with the nationals, and are in a position to know how the indigenous church can best come into being. Therefore, a certain amount of authority must be delegated by the Board to the body of missionaries on each field, constituted as a General Conference.

#### 4. *General Conferences*

a. General Conferences shall be constituted as soon as feasible on all mission fields. The Board shall execute the Synodical mission policies and administer the work on the field through the General Conference as its field agency. The membership, organization, and activities of these Conferences shall be determined by the General Conference with the approval of the Board.

b. Vitally necessary for a united understanding of the goals, and for an effective execution of the policies, are the following stipulations in organization:

- (1) The scheduling of periodic meetings, open to all the workers on the field, for purposes of fellowship, instruction, inspiration, and discussion.
- (2) The position of an Executive Secretary who serves as the official link between the Conference and the Board; who is the Conference's official representative in dealings with governmental or native authorities; and who, with the other members of the Executive Committee, is responsible for orientating new workers, and seeing to it that adopted policies and decisions are carried out on the various posts.
- (3) The constitution of an Executive Committee, composed of the officers of General Conference, which shall give particular attention to executing the policies of the Board and the Conference on the individual posts. To that end, it shall

make annual visits to each post, exercise the proper supervision of the work and the personnel, and report its findings and recommendations to the General Conference. It shall also handle matters demanding attention and action before the next meeting of Conference.

c. The actions of General Conference in regard to the Board are recommendatory; in regard to local conferences and missionaries, its actions shall be considered binding, unless the Board rules otherwise.

In cases of complaints against decisions of Conference, any member has the right to appeal to the Board, on the condition that the proper notification is given and a copy of his appeal is submitted to General Conference. In no case shall a missionary make his complaint to his calling or supporting church.

#### 5. *Local Conferences*

a. When in the judgment of General Conference there are a sufficient number of workers at a given post, they shall be organized into a local conference. The details of organization are to be determined by General Conference.

b. All workers at a post shall be members of such local conferences.

(*Grounds:* 1. This will bring the work closer to the natives, for workers are usually closer to the people than are the heads of departments.

2. This will make all workers feel they have a vital share in the Mission program.)

c. Local conferences are responsible to General Conference and shall not report to, nor attempt to deal with, the Board.

(*Grounds:* 1. This will strengthen the authority of Gen. Conf.

2. This will unify the work on the entire field and make possible the work of the Executive Comm. of General Conference.

3. This will relieve the Board of a great mass of unnecessary detail.)

#### C. THE CHURCH AND HER DUTIES TO THE NATIONALS

1. The Church in proclaiming and promoting the Gospel shall seek to enlist the resources, talents, and capacities of the nationals for the service of the Lord.

2. The Church shall earnestly attempt to establish good rapport with the nationals by:

a. Instilling in her missionaries a sense of appreciation for the views and aspirations of the nationals;

b. Reckoning with native customs and tastes in the construction of buildings, and in the modes of living and personal habits of her missionaries;

c. Engaging the services of suitable nationals for religious duties. All help hired by the Mission shall be carefully selected, be approved by the Conference, and be paid in accordance with native standards.

3. In undertaking her preaching ministry, the Church shall see to it that:

a. The Word of God is fully proclaimed in accordance with the Reformed Confessions in the vernacular;

b. Missionaries in their Christian conduct bear witness to this Gospel;

c. Missionaries and native workers engage in regular preaching services and personal contacts wherever opportunities are available;

d. Copies of the Scriptures, tracts, and other Christian reading matter are made available and wisely distributed;

e. The necessary facilities for carrying on an energetic evangelistic program are provided.

4. In undertaking her teaching ministry, the Church shall:

a. Teach the truths of Scripture to children and adults in the vernacular, in organized classes on weekdays and Sundays;

b. Where necessary, give instruction in reading and writing to enable adults and children to study the Word of God;

c. Where deemed advisable, to establish Mission schools and require tuition fees according to the nationals' economic ability;

(NOTE: The Minority group of the committee dissents from this specific regulation.)

d. Give concentrated instruction to those anticipating Baptism;

e. Furnish appropriate study materials for these various classes which the nationals purchase.

5. In making use of medical assistance, the Church shall:

a. Authorize the establishment of dispensaries, clinics, and hospitals, only when no other adequate or desirable facilities exist, and where such will promote the Gospel. Such shall be of modest proportions, balanced with the other endeavors of the Mission, and closely related to the nationals' ability to support and maintain;

b. Require patients to pay as able toward the cost of medicines and treatments received;

c. Require co-operation between the medical and evangelistic workers in ministering to patients' spiritual, as well as physical needs, in the hospital or in out-station visits.

#### D. THE CHURCH AND HER OBLIGATIONS TO NATIVE CONVERTS

1. Natives who profess faith in Jesus Christ and evidence a reasonable understanding of the Truth by a Godly walk of life shall be baptized by the missionary.

2. The missionary shall maintain a record of all baptized converts and form them into Believers Groups. He shall labor intensively to nurture them further in the Christian faith as regular worship habits are cultivated in the home and in the religious meetings, by conducting advanced Bible classes for the parents and their children, and by stimulating their Christian witness in their community.

3. Native initiative and responsibility shall be developed as the missionary wisely confers and plans with them in achieving the goal of a self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating Church in their midst. To that end, practical projects should be undertaken, as qualified natives function in position of leadership.

4. The Mission shall see to it that native Christians are trained to become evangelists and pastors, either by itself or another satisfactory agency. Where conditions warrant, missionaries shall be engaged to give their full-time efforts to this teaching ministry.

5. The organization of these Believers Groups into a congregation shall take place when the three marks of a Church can be maintained. Elders and deacons shall be ordained, the regular ministry of the Word and sacraments shall be instituted, and the faithful exercise of discipline shall be practised.

6. The missionary shall serve this autonomous congregation with his counsel and help, but shall leave the actual government thereof to the native office-bearers.

7. Financial aid by the sending Church shall be kept at a minimum compatible with the spiritual welfare of the native Church, and with the endorsement of the General Conference.

8. A congregation so formed must be considered a Reformed Church, and is encouraged to seek union with other existing Reformed Churches.

### III. MINORITY REPORT ON REGULATIONS

(Submitted by Rev. Harry R. Boer)

The mandate under which our committee discharged its labors requires that the committee draw up regulations applying the principles we should formulate to various aspects of the missionary enterprise. It seems to me, after studying the problems posed by this requirement, that it would not be wise for Synod to adopt such regulations. I therefore reluctantly dissent from the majority on this point. My reasons are the following:

1. We already have a Mission Order of substantial length. It includes many of the items included in the proposed regulations. Other of its provisions are contradicted by some of the proposed regulations. (See Art. 2,G,(1) ; Art. 4 ; Art. 9)

2. Synod has already adopted statements of principles on Evangelism and Medicine. It will act on Education at this Synod. A very large part of the proposed Regulations are a restatement of the principles already set forth. Section D, for instance, "The Church and Her Duties to the Nationals" is almost in its entirety a repetition of what has been stated in the relevant parts in the section on principles dealing with Evangelism, Education, and Medicine.

3. I believe that the drawing up of general regulations is the function of the Board and, in a more limited way, of the Conferences. Principles having once been set forth, we should trust our Board and missionaries to effectuate them in concrete formulations applied to concrete situations.

4. In so intensely spiritual a work as missions, regulations should, I believe, be reduced to a minimum. The largest possible scope should be given for freedom of action within the framework of accepted principles. These principles should not in the form of general regulations be forced on anyone or on any group engaged in the missionary enterprise. It can best be judged by those in positions of authority on the field and at home when in specific instances and in specific contexts, a particular action or policy is not in accordance with principles and policies adopted by the Synod. Principles can be given time to work out, and to form more and more the missionary mind of the Church and her workers. Regulations, on the other hand, demand immediate obedience.

5. The addition of Regulations (which are binding, in the nature of the case) and a Manual (by which all Board members and missionaries "are expected to be guided") to the already existing Mission Order, Field Constitutions, Statements of Principle, Board directives, and Conference minutes, are apt to have a confusing effect.

I therefore recommend to the Synod:

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS:

1. That they be not adopted;
2. That the Board be instructed to revise for Synod's approval, after gaining advice and suggestions from the several fields, the existing Mission Order. This revision should take especial note of the statements of principle adopted by the Synod.

*Grounds:*

1. The Mission Order includes some obsolete provisions;
2. It is desirable that officially adopted policies and the means required to effectuate them be set forth in the authoritative, already existing, Mission Order.

B. WITH RESPECT TO GENERAL CONFERENCES:

That Synod adopt the proposal of the Majority which is worded as

follows: General Conferences shall be constituted, as soon as feasible, on all mission fields. The Board shall execute the Synodical mission policies and administer the work on the field through the General Conference as its field agency. The membership, organization, and activities of these Conferences shall be determined by the General Conference with the approval of the Board.

*Grounds:*

1. Each Conference needs some form of organization;
2. The Conferences themselves are best able to determine under what form of organization they can most fruitfully discharge their work;
3. The Board must have all needful authority to pass on the adequacy of such forms of organization.

HARRY R. BOER.

#### IV. THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES AND REGULATIONS TO THE INDIAN MISSION FIELD IN NEW MEXICO.

We take it that our mandate does not call for a complete set of regulations covering our Indian field. The intent is, as we see it, to state in this part of our report what specific actions are required to carry into practice the principles and regulations given above in that particular field.

Before specifying these actions, we deem it important to make two observations;

First, it is not superfluous to remind ourselves that the Church's chief instrument in undertaking mission work is the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit. To that truth all must give their consent. We do not mean to intimate that in our endeavors in that field such has been lost sight of, but it is so easily taken for granted. *There is a real danger that in trying to apply methods, we shall think more of the methods than of the Word which these methods are to promote.* Let us remember always that the Word of God, clearly, faithfully, powerfully, and believingly brought, is the only means unto salvation and unto the building of the Church. It must be backed with prayers, earnestly and continually and believingly brought before God. It needs the mighty power of the Holy Spirit to make it effective. These are truths that must be vital to all of us.

Second, we feel that a renewed emphasis on the indigenous method is in order. What this method is should by this time be clear. In our meeting with the workers on our New Mexico field in September, 1951, we put the question whether all were committed to this method. We were assured that all were, but in conversing with them, we did not get the impression that all were clear on its implications. Nor did we feel that all were enthusiastically trying to carry it out, since there appears

to be a variety of practices among them. Such situations call for the emphasis we are now making.

Pursuant to this, we offer the following recommendations:

A. THAT OUR MISSION STAFF MAKE MORE PERSONAL AND MORE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO LEARN THE NAVAJO LANGUAGE.

It is agreed that the language is the avenue to the soul of a people. Such is of the very essence in the indigenous approach. Our fathers showed their insight when they insisted that missionaries should learn the language of the people.

To this day, little of that has been done. Several of the workers can carry on some conversations in the native tongue; none dares to undertake to bring a message in it. In cases where natives do not understand English, the clumsy method of speaking through an interpreter has to be employed.

To be sure, there have been some accounting reasons for this failure to learn the language, such as: its difficulty, the lack of a uniform policy for instructing missionaries in Navajo, the erroneous notion that the Indians were discarding their own language in favor of English, and the disagreement which orthography to adopt.

Over against such factors, however, there are weightier considerations which demand that our missionaries make diligent efforts to gain a working use of Navajo. It is essentially necessary for personally reaching the Indian with the Gospel, and for bringing him the truths of the Bible in an intelligent fashion. Moreover, such enables them to better understand the native, as well as to give better supervision and aid to their Indian interpreters and assistants.

1. Every missionary and worker must realize that the effectiveness of his labors in influencing the Indian for good is in a large measure dependent on his ability to speak Navajo.

2. Rather than looking for solutions through Conference or Board proposals, each missionary should avail himself of the existing Navajo language helps (grammars, lexicons, etc.) and apply himself diligently.

3. Where possible, weekly classes in Navajo shall be conducted by a qualified Indian, for our white workers. General Conference shall make it its business to see to it that this is systematically and progressively advanced.

B. THAT THE NAVAJO LANGUAGE BE MORE WIDESPREADLY USED:

1. The study of Navajo shall be a required subject in the Rehoboth schools so that the children are equipped to read and write their own language.

2. Instructions in the Bible shall *also* be given in Navajo in classes in the schools and the chapels, as well as in the spiritual visits with patients in the Hospital.



3. More all-Navajo services must be introduced throughout the field. For the spiritual interests of the Indian pupils, one of the services in the Rehoboth church should gradually become a complete Navajo service.

4. Missionaries and workers should be encouraged to speak with the natives in their own tongue. This will bring them closer to the Indians and take away the impression that Christianity and the white man's language necessarily go together.

5. Recordings, radio, and other available facilities should be widely exploited in the native language.

6. Real efforts shall be made to have qualified Christian Indians write tracts setting forth the Reformed truths in simple, native language, and translating such of our confessions and hymns as they and General Conference deem most appropriate to native needs.

C. THAT AN ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM BE UNDERTAKEN AT ONCE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE WYCLIFFE TRANSLATORS.

1. There is a pressing need for literacy work among the adult Indians, ere the Bible has any personal meaning for them.

2. The Wycliffe translators organization exists on the Indian field, and has on several occasions expressed its interest in undertaking this kind of teaching.

3. Certain Indians have indicated this to be a real need in our missionary efforts among their people, and have made request that we avail ourselves of this organization's proffered help.

D. THAT GREATER USE BE MADE OF THE SERVICES OF INDIANS.

1. Interpreters and native preachers must be given more responsibilities. Some of our missionaries are doing this; others are not. Naturally, discretion must be used, but the ideal must ever be to advance them into more responsible positions.

2. Native workers, wherever available, must be used in the school, the hospital, on maintenance work, everywhere. Our white personnel must make it possible to have Indians take over these functions at the earliest possible moment, and they must work to this end, and be willing to accept the risks involved.

3. The ideal of a native training school should be kept alive and steps towards its realization should be persistently made.

E. THAT AS LONG AS THE COOK TRAINING SCHOOL CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN AN AGREEABLE DOCTRINAL POSITION, WE SELECT IT AS PREFERABLE TO ALL OTHERS FOR THE EVANGELISTIC TRAINING OF SUITABLE INDIANS, AND THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE INCLUDES IN ITS BUDGET AN ITEM PROVIDING CERTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EVANGELISTIC SERVICE.

1. The Cook Training School, by reason of its proximity to the field and its all-Indian student body, offers the most desirable training environment for our Indian evangelists.

2. The present teaching staff includes some Christian Reformed missionaries and workers which assures a Reformed emphasis in the instruction given.

3. Our desire to use the services of this school necessarily obligates us to some financial support for its continued maintenance and giving needed assistance to Indian students we send there.

F. THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIVE CHURCHES BE UNDERTAKEN FORTHWITH.

1. The Board's report to the Synod of 1952 indicates that conditions exist which favor this;

2. There are places on the field which are approaching the point at which they will have adequate numbers and leadership to be organized into congregations;

3. This would be a great psychological boost to the members of such churches and their leaders.

G. THAT THE PREDOMINANT WHITE-MAN COMPLEXION OF THE CHURCH AT REHOBOTH BE ALTERED TO CONFORM TO THE NATIVE CHURCH TYPE.

1. The indigenous method does not envision a permanent stay of a white membership in a church organization;

2. Such churches constitute a direct hindrance to the development of a native leadership in the church;

3. The white workers should be willing to accept possible hardships such might entail for them, so that native Christians may advance.

H. THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO ORDAIN QUALIFIED INDIANS TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

1. There are a number of interpreters and native preachers who are rather mature, who have the confidence of the missionaries, and who are eager to have a more direct role in the evangelization of their people.

2. Some, if not all, of them have had sufficient training to serve as pastors to their people.

3. The native Churches to be organized will be needing pastors.

4. This will greatly enhance their prestige among their people, and be a great inspiration to the native Christians.

5. This will hasten the day when the white missionaries can hand over leadership responsibilities to Indians.

I. THAT THE MEDICAL WORK BE CONTINUED ALONG THESE LINES:

1. The policy of having the Indians make substantial payments for their medical care be continued and progressively applied;

2. The present capacity and facilities of the hospital be maintained, except where State standards demand adjustments;
3. Greater attention be given to the training of Indian nurses;
4. The service be broadened by out-station clinics and visits by members of the medical staff.

J. THAT THE EDUCATIONAL WORK AT REHOBOTH BE CONTINUED AND PATTERNED ALONG THESE LINES:

1. That ways and means be devised whereby the schools shall make greater and more direct contributions to the evangelistic program of the Mission, such as the teaching of Bible in Navajo.
2. Concern must be given to make the courses of study more relevant to the needs of the Indians;
3. There be continued increases in tuition schedules;
4. That parental interest and support be fostered by the formation of school societies as advocated by the Principal

K. THAT THE WORK AT ZUNI BE GOVERNED BY THESE CONSIDERATIONS:

1. That our Mission staff make more personal and more intensive efforts to use the Zuni language in their evangelistic and educational ministries.
  - a. The same reasons as above advanced for the learning and use of the Navajo language apply here.
  - b. The study of Zuni shall be a required subject in the school so that the children are equipped to read and write their own language.
  - c. Instructions in the Bible shall *also* be given in the Zuni language in the school and in the chapel.
  - d. Increased use of the Zuni language shall be introduced in the religious services and in the evangelistic witness, as the natives are challenged by the Gospel in their own tongue.
2. That our evangelistic endeavors be given primacy and prominence with the erection of a suitable chapel; that the building be in native style, located away from the school, and that native co-operation be secured in planning and erecting it, all with a view to having the Zuni Christians progressively achieve the indigenous goals.
3. That the school, which to date has far outdistanced and overshadowed our evangelistic work, be henceforth governed by the following policies:
  - a. That it make greater and more direct contributions to the evangelistic goals of the Mission, i.e., a native Church;
  - b. That its staff be less sensitive to probable tribal reactions, as it realizes that the use of the Gospel involves a "calling out" activity;

c. That commencing September 1953, tuition rates shall be fixed at the rate of \$10.00 per pupil per year; the consequent modifications and increases being made by General Conference.

*Grounds:*

(1) General Conference has twice recommended the charging of tuition to the Zuni staff;

(2) This policy will bring the school closer to the Zunis and contribute measurably to the indigenous goals;

(3) Zuni parents can well afford to pay tuition, since their average income is reliably reported as being around \$1400 annually, which is considerably higher than that of the average Navajo family;

(4) The possible withdrawal of some students — which fears have been voiced repeatedly by our Zuni staff, because of this charging of tuition — will reveal the real secular interests of Zuni parents so doing;

(5) The withdrawal of students from such kind of families will enable the school to lose its more pronounced pagan character, and be a means to strengthen the evangelistic impact of the Mission.

L. THAT ALL FURTHER EXPANSION BE IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING THE INDIGENOUS CHURCH AND IN FURTHERING INDIGENOUS KINGDOM ACTIVITY, WITH NO FURTHER INCREASES IN WHITE PERSONNEL AND BUILDINGS OR FINANCES FROM THE SENDING CHURCH.

(This recommendation is qualified by recommendation K-2, which deals with the possible construction of a chapel at Zuni).

1. Only such procedures will advance indigenous policies on the Indian field;

2. Our present building facilities are most adequate for undertaking a vigorous evangelistic ministry on the Indian field;

3. The present staff of 12 ordained missionaries, some 40 white workers, together with some 20 Indian employees, constitutes a sizeable working force already;

4. Already more than half of the total Mission budget is expended on this field;

5. The Synod of 1950 defined the condition of "status quo" as no further expansion of personnel and/or buildings. (Acts, Art. 127, P. 55)

M. THAT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE BE ACCORDED THE AUTHORITY AND RESPECT IT RIGHTFULLY DESERVES.

1. The Board must place the General Conference on a par with the other existing conferences in dealing with its problems, finances, and the like.

- a. For the sake of the work, our missionaries must have our every confidence and trust;
- b. Mere proximity to the Home office should not subject the Indian field to all sorts of controls, not imposed on the other Mission fields;
- c. Funds for the field shall be expended by the General Conference through its own Treasurer.

2. The Conference must itself become aware of its functions, dignity, and authority.

- a. It has oversight of all the work done on the field, the evangelistic, medical, and educational, and its decisions are binding, unless the Board rules otherwise;

- b. It deals directly with local conferences and reports directly to the Board;

- c. Through its Executive Secretary and Executive Committee it shall give greater impetus to the advancement of indigenous policies;

- d. The Conference must strive for a greater unity of spirit and purpose among the individual missionaries;

- e. The Conference serves the Board with advice respecting appointments, transfers, places of assignment, etc.

3. With this proposed setup, we urge the discontinuance of the Board's practice of sending annual "inspection committees" to the Indian field.

#### V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That Synod approve the summarized statements on Evangelism;

- 2. That Synod approve the summarized statements on Medical Work;

- 3. That Synod determine which policy of education shall govern our Mission endeavors — that advocated by the Majority or by the Minority, submitted in our previous report, (Acts 1952, Supplement 7, pp. 207-225) and summarized in this report, Section I, C;

- 4. That Synod adopt the material in Section II (Regulations) governing the relationships of Church to Board, Missionaries, Nationals, and Native Converts;

- 5. That Synod adopt these recommendations respecting our New Mexico field;

- a. That our Mission staff make more personal and more intensive efforts to learn the Navajo language;

- b. That the Navajo language be taught in the schools, and be used to a greater extent in evangelistic endeavors;

- c. That an adult literacy program be undertaken at once, in cooperation with the Wycliffe translators;

- d. That greater use be made of the services of Indians in our evangelistic and other Mission activities;

e. That the Cook School be used for the training of suitable Indians for evangelistic service, and that appropriate financial support be incorporated in the Budget therefor;

f. That we proceed at once to the organization of native Churches where conditions warrant;

g. That the predominant white-man complexion of the Church at Rehoboth be altered to conform to the native church type;

h. That immediate steps be taken to ordain qualified Indians to the Gospel ministry;

i. That the medical work be continued with the existing facilities, with increases in out-station visits, care-costs payments by Indians, and training of native nurses.

j. That the educational work at Rehoboth make more positive contributions to our evangelistic program, to the needs of the Indian students, and to fostering greater participation and support by Navajo parents.

k. That the Zuni Mission staff make more personal and more intensive use of the Zuni language in their evangelistic and educational ministries;

l. That the co-operation of the Zuni Christians be enlisted in the construction of a suitable chapel for the clear evangelistic witness in their midst;

m. That the school at Zuni commence in Sept. 1953 to fix tuition rates for its pupils, and become a greater power for making an evangelical impact;

n. That all further expansion be in terms of establishing the indigenous church and in furthering indigenous Kingdom activity, with no further increases in white personnel and buildings or finances from the sending Church;

o. That the General Conference assume the position of authority and responsibility it rightfully deserves, in managing its internal affairs, and in its dealings with the Board.

We invoke the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for the members of Synod as they deliberate and decide on these important Mission matters.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. GRITTER, *Chairman*

REV. A. H. SMIT

REV. H. PETROELJE, *Secretary*

REV. H. J. EVENHOUSE

REV. J. VAN BRUGGEN

MR. H. BRATT

REV. H. R. BOER

*NOTE:* Mr. H. Bratt was unable to serve fully on the committee this year, due to illness.

The Committee has appointed the Chairman to represent the Majority position on Education and the Secretary to represent the Minority position.

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 16

(Art. 82)

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER  
ARTICLE 70 SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM  
OR RETAINED IN THE CHURCH ORDER**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

I. *Original Mandate* — Mr. Peter L. Van Dyken sent an overture to the Synod of 1947 requesting "That Article 70 of our Church Order be eliminated from said document". Text of Art. 70: "Since it is proper that the matrimonial state be confirmed in the presence of Christ's Church, according to the form for that purpose, the consistories shall attend to it". "Reason: The matter of which this Art. speaks is not an ecclesiastical matter".

The Synod of 1947 adopted the following recommendation which states our mandate: "Your Advisory Committee is not prepared to either affirm or deny the argumentation offered for the removal of Art. 70 from the Church Order. However, this committee is convinced that the removal or retention is in need of study. Hence, your committee recommends that Synod appoint a committee to investigate whether Art. 70 should be removed or retained in the Church Order. In case this study committee should decide in favor of its retention the committee be further instructed to consider a possible revision and clarification of this article to remove all ambiguity.

*Grounds:*

"1. This article of our Church Order is increasingly becoming a dead letter. It should either be removed or observed by the Churches. Either of these requires the study for which we ask.

"2. The relation of marriage to the Church is in need of study in these days when the sacredness of marriage is so sorely lost sight of."

II. *Recommendations of Our Committee in 1949.*

A. That Article 70 of our Church Order be changed to read as follows:

"The Consistories shall do all in their power to see to it that marriage on the part of those under their supervision, and the solemnization of it, shall be in keeping with the teaching and principles of Scripture".

b. That the parenthetical note "(cf. Art. 70 of the Church Order)" be dropped from the statement found at the beginning of the form for the Solemnization of Marriage.

*Ground:* There is no point to this reference if the proposed revision is adopted.

C. That if Points A and B are adopted, Synod inform our sister Churches of this revision of Art. 70.

The Synod of 1949 referred our report back to our Committee with the instruction to confer with churches having the same Church Order and especially with the Gereformeerde Kerken van Nederland and the Gereformeerde Kerk of South Africa, our sister Churches.

### III. *Reply of Sister Churches.*

a. The Reformed Church of the Netherlands replied as follows:

“De Synode besloot met volle vrijmoedigheid Uw vraag in gunstigen zin te beantwoorden. Zij deelt U mede, dat er bij haar tegen de voorgenomen wijziging van artikel 70 van de kerkorde geen enkele bedenking bestaat; dat zij integendeel zich verheugt over het feit, dat de Christian Reformed Church door het aan brengen van deze wijziging, er tegen blijkt te willen waken, dat een artikel van kerkorde zou worden tot een doode letter; en dat zij de Christian Reformed Church genade en wijsheid toebidt om, naar de nieuwe formulering van artikel 70 der kerkorde, te waken en te blijven waken voor het Christelijk karakter van het huwelijk”.

B. Our sister Church in South Africa replied as follows:

1. “U skrywe insake Art. 70 K.O. ontvang. Ons het dit verwys na die Teologiese professore om daarop in te gaan en aan die Deputaatskap vir Korrespondensie te rapporteer, vir rapport aan e.k. Sinode”. Accordingly an answer would be sent later.

2. Later reply reads as follows: “Skrapping Art. 70 Kerkorde: Hieroor is besluit:

“(1) Aangesien 'n hersiening van die hele Kerkorde moontlik ter hand geneem sal word, kan die hersiening van Art. 70 ook in hierdie groter verband onderneem word as dit nodig mag blyk.

“(2) Intussen bly wat ons betref, die teenswoordige redaksie gehandhaaf en die Sinode stuur aan die Geref. kerk in Nederland en Chr. Geref. Kerk in die U.S.A. afskrifte van sy besluit insake die beskrywingspunt in verband met die inrigting van trou dienste.”

The reply from South African continues by informing us of a proposed order of worship discussed with a view to services for the solemnization of marriage. However, no final action was taken by the Synod of South Africa on that matter. Further information given does not have a direct bearing on our problem.

### IV. *Recommendations*

A. That this entire matter now be placed in the hands of the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Since the appointment of the above mentioned Committee the matter under consideration has properly become a part of its task.



2. This is also in harmony with the advice given by our sister Church in South Africa.

b. Relative to the change or amendment of Article 68 of the General Rules of 1881 re the ecclesiastical confirmation of marriage as requested by Classis Hackensack and Classis Hudson (see Overtures 19 and 25, Acts of Synod 1951, pp. 455, 458 referred to our committee):

1. That this matter be held in abeyance until final action is taken with regard to Art. 70 of the Church Order.

*Grounds:*

a. The proposed revision of Art. 70 if adopted would mean that the rule in question would be obsolete.

b. The matter can safely wait since the danger pointed up by the two overtures are covered and counteracted by the 1944 decision anent the evil of mixed marriages.

2. That the above mentioned overtures be referred to the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

B. VAN SOMEREN

J. VANDER PLOEG

A. JABAAY

JOHN KUIPER

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 17**  
(Art. 135)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON PLANNING**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

The Sunday School Planning Committee hereby reports that during the past year, as heretofore, we have followed in the main the outlines in the Uniform Bible Lesson Series prepared by the National Sunday School Association. Some slight changes that were deemed necessary were made. It may be of interest to know that the long-range plan is as follows: 1955 — 1st Quarter, Luke; 2nd, O.T.; 3rd, O.T.; 4th, Paul's Missionary Journey; 1956 — 1st, John; 2nd, O.T.; 3rd, O.T.; 4th, Christian Living; 1957 — 1st, Synoptics; 2nd, Early Church Leaders, 3rd, O.T.; 4rd, Little Known Bible Characters.

The topics to be treated in 1954 with their respective Scripture settings are:

**1st Quarter**

Jesus Introduced and Anointed — Mark 1:1-13  
 Jesus Teaching and Healing — Mark 1:21-45  
 Jesus Forgiving Sins — Mark 2:1-12  
 Jesus, Friend and Saviour — Mark 2:12-28  
 Jesus Teaching by the Seaside — Mark 4:1-36  
 Touching His Garment — Mark 5:22-43  
 Disastrous Revelry — Mark 6:14-29  
 Persistence Rewarded — Mark 7:24-37  
 Frustrated Disciples — Mark 9:1-29  
 The Cost of Discipleship — Mark 10:1-45  
 Silencing His Critics — Mark 12:13-44  
 The Future Foretold — Mark 13:1-37  
 Jesus Betrayed — Mark 14:10-45

**2nd Quarter**

The Trial of Jesus — Mark 14:53-72  
 Jesus Takes the Sinner's Place — Mark 15:1-47  
 The Risen Christ — Mark 16:1-20  
 The Early Life of Moses — Exodus 1-2  
 God Calls Moses — Exodus 3-4  
 Moses and the Magicians — Exodus 7-10  
 The Night of the Passover — Exodus 11-12  
 Crossing the Red Sea — Exodus 13-14  
 The Ten Commandments — Exodus 19-20  
 The Golden Calf — Exodus 32:1-35  
 God's Law Concerning Strong Drink — Leviticus 10:1-20  
 Finding Fault with Leaders — Numbers 12:1-16

**3rd Quarter**

The Report of the Spies — Number 13-14  
 Experiences in the Wilderness — Numbers 20-21

Balaam and Balak — Numbers 22-24  
Rahab and the Spies — Deut. 34, Joshua 1-2  
The Crossing of the Jordan — Joshua 3-4  
The Fall of Jericho — Joshua 6:1-27  
Defeat at Ai — Joshua 7-8  
The Folly of Compromise — Joshua 9  
A Miracle in the Heavens — Joshua 10  
Joshua's Last Campaign — Joshua 11-12  
Caleb's Reward — Number 13-15  
The Cities of Refuge — Numbers 35  
Joshua's Final Challenge — Joshua 24

#### 4th Quarter

The Bible Which Jesus Used — Luke 4  
How Our Bible Came to Be — II Pet. 1  
The Whole Bible as God's Word — II Tim. 3  
The Books of the Law — Deut. 31-32  
The Bible, our Temperance Textbook — Ps. 119  
The Bible and God's People — Deut. 1-3  
The Bible Story of a Wise Man — Job 1-2  
The Poetry of the Bible — Psalms 22-24  
Prophecy in the Bible — Jeremiah 18  
Christ the Theme of the Bible — John 5  
The Written and the Living Word — John 1  
Why the Angels Sang — Luke 2  
The Holy Spirit and the Bible — I Cor. 2, I Thess. 2

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. BRATT, *Secretary*

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 18

(Arts. 84, 96)

### KOREAN MATERIAL RELIEF

*To the Synod of 1953.*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The Grand Rapids Deacons' Conference wishes to address the following communication to your body. This is done after consultation with the Korean Spiritual Relief Committee.

About two years ago our Conference assumed responsibility for Korean Material Relief. At that time the Holland-Zeeland Conference had been mandated by Synod to care for Hungarian Relief (cf. Acts, 1950, p. 376), and suggested that our Grand Rapids Conference take responsibility for Korean Material Relief.

In 1951 we conducted a denominational clothing drive. Over 30 tons of clothing were sent to our needy Reformed brethren in Korea. This entailed an expense of over \$20,000 which our Conference raised denominationally in 1951. In 1952 we conducted a hurried drive in December in the Grand Rapids-Holland area, and 23 tons of clothing was shipped out. Tentative plans have been drawn up for sectional clothing drives throughout the denomination in the future.

Hospital needs have also claimed our attention. Every month over \$100 worth of medicines, vitamin tablets, drugs, etc. are sent to the Gospel Hospital in Pusan. For a time we sent \$500 a month for support of the doctors and nurses. Our present lack of funds prohibit this support at the present time. Enclosed find a financial statement covering the two years of our activities.

The clothing has been distributed among the Reformed churches in Korea, and we keep in constant touch with the Relief Committee of that denomination.

We now wish to make the following request of Synod:

A. *That our Grand Rapids Deacons' Conference, with its Board, be designated as the organization responsible for Korean Material Relief.*

*Grounds:*

1. Our Korean brethren, together with Rev. Sutton, have strongly recommended that all monies and goods be handled by one central organization in the United States. They have discouraged sending funds through various different channels. Our Conference would then be the central channel for distribution and would be in position for audits, reviews, etc.

2. The Korean Spiritual Relief Committee, appointed by Synod,

has advised this action. They are not ready to assume the work of *material* relief at this time.

3. Our Conference, due to its two years in this work, has some knowledge of the personnel, organization, problems connected with the work.

B. *That Korean Material Relief be placed on the list of accredited causes recommended to deaconates for support.*

*Grounds:*

1. There is no doubt but that the need will continue for the coming year. These suffering brethren in Christ continue to cry for help. Their cry calls for united action in Christian mercy.

2. Such specific recognition would identify our organization and its work. There has been no end of confusion among donors and Church treasurers between our work and that of the Korean Spiritual Relief. Such identification would clarify this situation.

3. This work should be of broader scope than a local conference. This presents an opportunity for denominational cooperation, and general compassion and mercy beyond any local bounds.

4. At present we have no proper way of approaching the deacons of our Churches for help in the financing of clothing drives, seeking funds for medicines, hospital supplies, etc. Through ignorance the Conference made a request of all Consistories in 1951, and the response was excellent. But we did overstep our bounds at that time of emergency. If we would be placed on the list of accredited causes we could appeal to all our Churches for assistance in time of need.

C. *That Rev. B. Pekelder, our advisor, represent our Conference before your Committees if any further information is required.*

Humbly submitted,

G. GERRITSEN, *President*

G. GRITTER, *Secretary*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
GRAND RAPIDS DIACONAL CONFERENCE**

**YEAR 1951**

**RECEIPTS:**

Balance brought forward (Spanish Relief) .....	\$ 560.54
<b>Korean Receipts:</b>	
January .....	none
February .....	681.65
March .....	454.89
April .....	376.07
May .....	1,130.31
June .....	192.38
July .....	415.00

August .....	511.82	
September .....	61.46	
October .....	3,676.98	
November .....	3,058.11	
December .....	5,438.90	
Total Receipts .....		\$16,558.14
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Spanish .....	\$ 261.21	
<b>Korean:</b>		
Medical supplies and food .....	872.80	
Shipping expense .....	203.89	
New clothing .....	721.33	
Spiritual relief .....	717.35	
Hungarian relief .....	100.00	
Misc. expense .....	67.50	
Total Disbursements .....		\$ 2,944.08
Bank Balance December 31, 1951 .....		\$13,614.06

**YEAR 1952**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Balance brought forward .....	\$13,614.06	
January .....	7,129.17	
February .....	781.05	
March .....	264.25	
April .....	389.86	
May .....	478.31	
June .....	1,477.32	
July .....	616.61	
August .....	none	
September .....	151.71	
October .....	148.90	
November .....	239.36	
December .....	2,753.68	
Total Receipts .....		\$28,044.28
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Medicine and drugs (Hospital) .....	\$ 1,920.52	
Rev. Floyd E. Hamilton (Hospital) .....	3,000.00	
Shipping Costs .....	15,218.65	
New clothing .....	2,400.35	
Disbursed to Spiritual Relief .....	779.44	
Misc. expense .....	38.68	
Total Disbursements .....		\$23,357.64
Bank Balance December 31, 1952 .....		\$ 4,686.64

1952 Books audited and found to be in good order

by: Franklin A. De Vas

Peter J. Kalkman

Gilbert Van Dyke, Treas.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 19**  
(Art. 84)

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**KOREAN REFORMED SPIRITUAL RELIEF COMMITTEE**

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DEAR BRETHREN:

The undersigned committee have again been privileged during the past year to serve as the denomination's agency for the collection and distribution of funds for the spiritual relief of our Reformed brethren in Korea. We are grateful to God for the generosity of our people to this cause and the good which it appears to be doing in the midst of Korean devastation. The contributions have been such that we have been able to send \$1500.00 monthly, and thus the spiritual relief work has been put on a somewhat stable basis. These funds are used for the following stipulated causes: the Korea Theological Seminary; evangelism when conducted under the auspices of the Church; subsidizing of ministers and evangelists; religious publications and books; rebuilding of churches (to a limited extent).

By permission of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, Rev. Robert Sutton inspected the Korean relief work on behalf of this committee before taking up his work in Japan. Due to certain irregularities which took place in Korea, there have been changes in the personnel of our contacts. Full information on this matter is available to Synod upon request. The Rev. Dwight R. Malsbary, Orthodox Presbyterian missionary, is our liaison treasurer for changing American funds into Korean. But all disbursements are made through a Central Committee composed of twelve outstanding leaders of the Korean Church. Rev. Sutton writes of them, "They are men of mature judgment, integrity, and most of all, a desire is in their hearts to make Christ's Gospel known. We can put complete confidence in their decisions and activities and support them to the utmost."

As to the reception of our aid by the Koreans, much could be said, but we will limit ourselves to one paragraph of Rev. Sutton's admirable report. He writes: "Enough can never be said to express the appreciation of the Korean people to our churches. Their expressions of gratitude were always made with much emotion and tenderness. It was most heart-warming to see the youngest to the oldest, though handicapped by the language barrier, expressing their deep admiration for the Christians in America. It is distressing that this admiration cannot be expressed in visible manner to everyone in the American Churches who so graciously contributed of their earnings. Only eternity will tell what has been expressed in the Korean language and tears for the beloved in America."

We call Synod's special attention to the fact that a financial report on material relief will be forthcoming from the Grand Rapids diocese.

According to the rule of rotation adopted by a recent Synod for committees appointed directly by Synod, some rotation will be due soon on this committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the work be continued.
2. That, as in previous years, the Korean Reformed Spiritual Relief Committee be recommended to the Churches for one or more offerings.
3. That the Committee be granted permission to allocate \$2,000.00 from the funds on hand for the publication of a commentary on the New Testament by Rev. Yune Sun Park of the Korea Theological Seminary. (Rev. Park in a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, mastered the Dutch language in order to make use of Dutch commentaries, is highly spoken of by all, and is warmly recommended by Dr. C. Van Til.)

We consider it our solemn privilege and duty to commend this cause warmly to Synod and the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. HOOGSTRA, *President*  
 J. H. KROMMINGA, *Secretary*  
 E. VERMAAT, *Treasurer*  
 O. BREEN  
 A. NABER

KOREAN SPIRITUAL RELIEF

Balance on hand, March 1, 1952..... \$ 741.47

RECEIPTS

March, 1952 .....	\$ 709.40	
April, 1952 .....	1,697.03	
May, 1952 .....	2,251.41	
June, 1952 .....	1,693.94	
July, 1952 .....	2,583.50	
August, 1952 .....	1,219.24	
September, 1952 .....	1,295.93	
October, 1952 .....	1,373.93	
November, 1952 .....	1,588.71	
December, 1952 .....	2,219.55	
January, 1953 .....	9,477.72	
February, 1953 .....	2,972.13	
		\$29,082.49
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>		<b>\$29,823.96</b>



## DISBURSEMENTS

Korean Orphan Fund.....	\$ 96.66	
Korean Relief .....	11,400.00	
Chaplain Oostenink .....	75.80	
Schreur Printers .....	17.65	
Rev. Robert Sutton.....	200.00	
Korean Material Reilef.....	423.64	
Chr. Ref. Publishing House.....	37.53	
Miscellaneous .....	7.60	
		<u>\$12,258.88</u>
Balance on hand, March 1, 1953.....		\$17,565.08

## KOREAN ORPHAN FUND

## RECEIPTS

March, 1952 .....	\$ 1,270.00	
April, 1952 .....	740.11	
May, 1952 .....	125.00	
June, 1952 .....	480.00	
July, 1952 .....	100.00	
August, 1952 .....	0.00	
September, 1952 .....	5.00	
October, 1952 .....	0.00	
November, 1952 .....	207.42	
December, 1952 .....	120.00	
January, 1953 .....	239.78	
February, 1953 .....	175.25	
		<u>\$ 3,462.56</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS

Korean Christian Relief Comm.....	\$ 3,000.00
	<u>\$ 462.56</u>
Balance on hand, March 1, 1953.....	\$ 462.56

EDWARD VERMAAT, *Treasurer.*

I have audited the books of the Treasurer of this account from March 1, 1952 to March 1, 1953, and found them to be correct and in good order as per above financial statement.

THEODORE HOEKSEMA.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 20**  
(Art. 96)

**THE CANADIAN RELIEF FUND**

ESTEEMED BRETHERN:

It is with gratitude in our heart that we may report a substantial balance in our fund. The financial report shows that receipts and expenses balance one another rather well for the year 1952.

We hope that Synod will again recommend our Canadian Relief fund to the various diaconates for support. The support is still needed as the itemized expenses reveal. May we continue to extend the helping hand to those in need.

Herewith a statement of finances is presented:

RECEIPTS:

Synod Treasurer .....	\$ 3,928.49
Classis Chicago North .....	295.15
Classis Can. Pacific .....	22.89
Classis Sioux Center .....	94.76
Bellflower III, California .....	99.35
Chatham Diaconate .....	150.00
Chr. Ref. Ch. Englw. 1 .....	162.13
Chr. Ref. Wyoming Park .....	389.63
Chr. Ref. Kalamazoo III .....	57.30
Chr. Ref. Plymouth Heights .....	47.15
Chr. Ref. Oakdale Park .....	124.85
Chr. Ref. Evergreen Park .....	5.00
Chr. Ref. Vesper, Misc. ....	53.70
Chr. Ref. Roseland III .....	50.00
Chr. Ref. South Hol. Beth. ....	50.00
Chr. Ref. Godwin Heights .....	53.11
Chr. Ref. Trinity Jenison .....	31.00
Chr. Ref. Orange City II .....	136.46
Chr. Ref. Sibley, Iowa .....	38.62
Chr. Ref. Leighton, Iowa .....	27.09
Chr. Ref. Sully, Iowa .....	125.80
Ladies Aid — Noordeloos .....	10.00
Ladies Aid — Orange City I .....	25.00
Interest .....	70.91
Total Receipts .....	\$ 6,048.42
Balance January 1, 1952 .....	4,208.26
Grand Total .....	\$10,256.68

EXPENDITURES:

Orangeville .....	\$ 26.13
Kitchener .....	72.51
Lindsay .....	207.07
Lethbridge .....	391.94
Cobden .....	460.21

Cornwall .....	134.99	
Renfrew .....	- 36.29	
Brockville .....	459.38	
Kingston .....	288.62	
Barrie .....	51.70	
Forester Falls .....	90.06	
Chatham .....	1,008.62	
Owen Sound .....	223.76	
Brampton .....	190.35	
Essex .....	105.15	
Martintown .....	9.51	
Holland Marsh .....	133.35	
Iroquois .....	91.52	
Toronto .....	117.65	
Vancouver .....	176.36	
Ottawa .....	79.62	
Hanbury .....	3.95	
Peterboro .....	35.70	
Antrim .....	166.74	
Miscell, Exchange, Stamps .....	68.09	
Total .....		\$ 4,629.30
Hospital Bills .....		1,437.79
Total .....		\$ 6,067.09
Balance December 31, 1952 .....		\$ 4,189.59
Grand Total .....		\$10,256.68

Chatham Diaconate,  
Harm Riepman, Treas.

Audited by: A. Bisschop  
A. Koene

Treasurer for 1953: A. Bisschop, 104 Edgar Str., Chatham, Ontario,  
Canada.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 21**

(Arts. 68, 69, 76, 105, 125, 128, 157, 158)

**GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS**

**ESTEEMED BRETHERN:**

The General Committee for Home Missions, which met on February 4 and following days of the current year, herewith submits its annual report to your honorable body for synodical review and action.

Again we can record that blessings have been granted. Efforts expended have not been in vain. At the same time the urgency of all missionary endeavor, and especially so in the Home Field, continues. Except we in accordance with the will of the Master are minded to make our "impact upon the secular world of today and win it for Christ", that same secular world will stifle the spiritual life, suppress the witness and dim the vision which must be ours. To carry out this program of witnessing; the wise distribution of men and money, the procurement of additional missionaries and finances, and the selection and opening of new fields are recurring problems. In the measure that we are one in the fellowship of the Spirit, of faith, of prayer and of purpose, may we expect to succeed.

As in recent years the membership both of the General Committee and the Executive Committee has undergone changes. This is in large part due to the rapid turnover of pastorates. For the new members on both committees a period of orientation is needed to become conversant with the several fields. This similarly is true of the recurring problems that must be considered.

Members who have faithfully served on the Executive Committee and left us in the course of the year are the Revs. M. Bolt, P. Y. De Jong, L. Voskuil, L. Van Laar, J. Kenbeek and Mr. B. Brouwer. These vacancies have been filled by the Revs. J. Guichelaar, H. Dykhous, G. Kok, J. Schuring, R. Wildschut and Mr. F. Oldemulders.

The Executive Committee meets monthly. Meetings of the various sub-committees are scheduled according to need.

For the convenience of Synod our report is submitted under the customary following heads:

**PART I**

**PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION**

<b>CLASSES</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>
Alberta .....	Rev. J. De Jong	Rev. R. Star
California .....	Rev. J. Hollebeek	Rev. K. DeWaal Malefyt
Chatham .....	Rev. J. Rook	Rev. J. Vande Kieft
Chicago North .....	Rev. H. Baker	
Chicago South .....	Rev. B. Van Someren	Rev. D. Hoitenga
Eastern Ontario .....	Rev. L. Van Laar	Rev. H. Moes
Grand Rapids East .....	Rev. H. Dykhous	Rev. F. Van Houten

CLASSES	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES	
Grand Rapids South	Rev. E. Masselink	Rev. J. A. Mulder	
Grand Rapids West	Rev. W. Heynen	Rev. B. Pekeider	
Hackensack	Rev. A. Persenaire	Rev. C. Holtrop	
Hamilton	Rev. G. Kok	Rev. C. Spoelhof	
Holland	Rev. O. Holtrop	Rev. W. Hekman	
Hudson	Rev. J. Schuring	Rev. H. Sonnema	
Kalamazoo	Rev. J. H. Piersma	Rev. G. H. Vande Riet	
Minnesota North	Rev. J. Medendorp	Rev. W. Ackerman	
Minnesota South	Rev. A. H. Selles	Rev. H. Vanderaa	
Muskegon	Rev. R. Wildschut	Rev. D. Mellema	
Orange City	Rev. G. Postma	Rev. W. Prins	
Ostfriesland	Rev. J. Olthoff	Rev. L. Bazuin	
Pacific	Rev. J. R. Van Dyke	Rev. W. Verwolf	
Pella	Rev. H. Vander Kam	Rev. S. J. De Vries	
Sioux Center	Rev. W. Vande Kieft	Rev. J. C. Ribbens	
Wisconsin	Rev. W. Meyer	Rev. E. Ubels	
Zeeland	Rev. J. Guichelaar	Rev. J. Breuker	
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE	ALTERNATES		TERMS
Mr. W. Hofstra	Mr. B. Smit		1950-1953
Mr. T. Hoeksema	Mr. R. Dykema		1951-1954
Mr. F. Oldemulders	Mr. H. Rottschafer		1952-1955

Since the term of Mr. W. Hofstra expires at this time, a member-at-large and his alternate must be elected for the term 1953-1956.

The Executive Committee presently comprises the following members: The Revs. H. Dykhous, J. Guichelaar, G. Kok, E. Masselink, J. Piersma, J. Schuring, R. Wildschut and the Messrs. W. Hofstra, T. Hoeksema and F. Oldemulders, with the Secretary, the Rev. H. Blystra, as member ex-officio. Missionary-at-Large J. M. Vande Kieft serves on the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity.

Subsequent to the departure of the Revs. M. Bolt and L. Voskuil, the Revs. G. Kok and J. Guichelaar served respectively as President and Vice-President, and Mr. W. Hofstra discharged the duties of Treasurer.

The subcommittee for Church Extension comprises the brethren: E. Masselink, J. Piersma, J. Schuring, G. Kok and H. Blystra.

The subcommittee having charge of the Fund for Needy Churches includes the brethren: H. Dykhous, J. Guichelaar, R. Wildschut, and H. Blystra.

To the subcommittee for finances belong the brethren: W. Hofstra, T. Hoeksema, F. Oldemulders and H. Blystra.

Moreover, our Missionary-at-Large, the Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, serves in an advisory capacity on these several committees.

The General Committee for Home Missions convened for its annual meeting on February 4, 5 and 6 of the current year. At that time the following officers were elected:

President	Rev. G. Kok
Vice-President	Rev. J. Guichelaar
Treasurer	Mr. W. Hofstra

Again we were permitted free of charge the use of the convenient facilities of the Bates Street Christian Reformed Church for our monthly and annual meetings. In behalf of Synod your Committee has conveyed a letter of appreciation to the Consistory.

## PART II GENERAL INFORMATION

In compliance with our divine mandate and the instructions of Synod, we have endeavored to sound forth the witness of Christ. The impelling urgency of this message among the millions who know not God as he has revealed himself in his Word and in the Son of his love, whose hope is stayed on the gods that are vain, and who by reason of these facts are without God and without hope, is apparent to all who are conversant with the secularistic and godless trends of our age. And it is well to be mindful of the fact that an age so conditioned poses serious perils to our own Church. This situation calls for much pastoral nurture as well as the strong scriptural witness: Thus saith the Lord. To the extent that we are an active, in every realm of life a witnessing Church shall we be able to maintain ourselves.

Have we promise of success? Indeed! Provided ours is the faith voiced by other saints, a faith which confides not in its own strength but "the Man of God's own choosing."

Upon request from the proper bodies, surveys were conducted with the intent that new congregations might come to birth. The significance of this assignment, whereby the Church's witness is established in new communities, inactive members are quickened, straying sheep are reclaimed, and the lost are sought, calls for co-operative appreciation; every member an evangelist.

Our radio evangelism through follow-up work, promoted by the Rev. Harold Dekker, points to possibilities of expansion. Here too advancement is contingent upon the support of our Churches.

The denominational mission activities, in behalf of our colored neighbors, give promise of fruitful labor as doors are opened.

The missionary staff in the United States was reduced by one of its members. Missionary R. De Groot, having served in the Chicago area for slightly more than four years, was led to accept the call to Creston, Grand Rapids. We shall miss this servant in our Home Mission endeavors; the more so since in his own words relations to the Committee "have ever been most cordial". Our force was augmented by the ordinations and acceptances of the Revs. Eugene Callender and Fred Klooster; the first continuing his labors among the people of his own race, and the latter remaining in his chosen field in the city of Urbana, Illinois.

The two service-pastors, the Revs. Harry Dykstra and Albert Bratt, have devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the spiritual ministry for

our youth in military service. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mulder have nobly provided the Christian home atmosphere in the service home at Alameda, California. And Mr. and Mrs. A. Bauman have been similarly occupied in Seattle, Washington.

In our Canadian field we had to forego the faithful services of Candidate A. De Jager. He had been engaged as stated supply in Southern Alberta. However, having been ordained, and having accepted a call to Taber, he remained in that area and the Canadian work. Mr. K. G. Togtema, under the direction of Missionary Albert Smit, is assisting for one year in the Ottawa, Ontario field, Canada's capitol.

Resources from the Fund for Needy Churches were administered in accordance with the rules set by Synod.

Names of the Dispersed and Non-Resident members were filed. The assistance of our missionaries or ministers was enlisted wherever feasible to make contact, admonish, and encourage Church attendance on the part of these members.

Reflecting upon the past year, we can again record that God has abundantly blessed. Ours was the opportunity to render service unto the Lord and his saints. And thus through its representatives that privilege was accorded unto our Church. May ours be the mindedness to promote the work of missions in the Home Field devotedly, sacrificially, prayerfully. Our will here to witness and to extend that witness to new areas has its source in and is obedience unto the glorious, the holy and the redemptive will of Him whose blood-bought Church we are. To that end may the indwelling Spirit of the Lord quicken our zeal, enlarge our vision and qualify each and all until ours is the higher service in the Church Triumphant.

### PART III

#### CHURCH EXTENSION — U.S. FIELD

As in previous years the church extension activities in the United States are presented in the order of the various districts and the particular fields where our missionaries are occupied with the closely related and frequently interrelated church extension and evangelization endeavors.

##### 1. EASTERN DISTRICT.

a. New York City, N. Y. Here the activities of Missionary Eugene Callender presently are of major interest. Evidences accumulate that as new and renewed contacts are made by our missionary, Harlem promises to be a fruitful field of kingdom labor.

Bible classes were organized and the Y.M.C.A. engaged as a meeting place. However, as to time and place appointed for these group meetings the convenience of the Y.M.C.A. and its several activities must be reckoned with constantly. Needless to say, this situation hampered the work

as well as its development. The need of a building for our exclusive use, apparent from the outset, became more urgent as time went on. Many inquiries and investigations as to sites or building facilities in Harlem were made locally. In nearly every case reported it appeared that an investment of well over the \$100,000.00 mark would be needed.

Unquestionably as an answer to repeated prayer a suitable building of brick construction "ideally situated and reasonably priced" was discovered. The building, thirty feet wide and forty feet deep, having three stories and a basement, was offered for \$20,000.00. "This price is a giveaway for New York City." The General Committee at its annual meeting authorized both purchase and remodeling. There is a possibility that acceptable living quarters for the Callenders can be had in this same building. In that event the missionary will live among the people with whom he labors; an approved method for mission work.

Yet another evangelization project has been opened in New York. Word was received from our Paterson III Consistory that it had engaged Mr. Paul Szto for a one-year period to work among the Chinese in New York City. Mr. Szto, a graduate from Westminster Seminary, is presently studying in the East toward his doctor's degree. Both he and Mrs. Szto are members in full communion of Paterson III. Having requested license to exhort in our Eastern Classes he "was thoroughly examined by the joint committee of Classes Hackensack and Hudson and completely satisfied the committee with respect to his fine scholarly mind and his commitment to the Reformed faith."

"His work in New York has been largely concentrated on students and recent alumni, of which there are some 1500-2000. This was done with the purpose of exploring the possibilities of student work and at the same time exploring the entire field of missions among the thousands of Chinese in New York City." Hence Paterson III is in the midst of missions among the Chinese, and as a Home Mission project. For that reason this work was graciously brought to the attention of the General Committee for Home Missions.

It might be added that this work is in accord with the racial approach — a mission program which addresses itself to a socially homogeneous and integrated group — as recommended by the Committee which made a study-survey of the New York field.

The General Committee upon motion commended the Paterson III Consistory and the supporting congregation for its faith and vision to initiate this evangelization project among New York's Chinese for an exploratory period of one year.

b. Monsey, N. Y. under the shepherding of Missionary D. Van Halsema, has been exceptionally blessed during the past year. The Church which had well nigh ceased to exist so that "four years ago there was but one member's name on the books" has been organized



anew. The present membership "contains the names of fourteen families, forty-two communicant members and seventy-one souls. The house of worship has been remodeled, and needed facilities added. We share with the missionary and the members a sense of deep gratitude to God. We rejoice in the renewed gospel witness heard in Monsey. The more so since "the entire region stands open to the preaching of the gospel."

c. Wanamassa, N. J. has been assured a place on our denominational map. Here Missionary Paul Holtrop has entered upon kingdom labors in this new Eastern community. The chapel, now in process of construction and nearing completion, will provide opportunity to extend the work of evangelism in the community. Here too, as in so many kingdom endeavors, the laying of first foundations has not been free from discouragements. That experience fosters a spirit of daily dependence upon the Master-Builder and the imploration: "the work of our hands establish thou it."

d. Philadelphia, Pa., is presently under the care of Missionary Paul Holtrop. This additional responsibility, as well as care for our servicemen in the area, keeps our brother exceptionally busy. In view of the distance between his two fields, the arrangement is far from ideal. With that in mind the small but active and aggressive Philadelphia membership has requested the placement of a missionary. The Eastern Home Missions Board endorsed the petition and placed same before the General Committee for Home Missions at its annual meeting. Realizing that development of this field is contingent upon the placement of a missionary, the General Committee granted the petition. It was further decided that the Eastern Home Missions Board be requested to explore the possibility of manning Philadelphia by means of financial support from our Eastern churches. Synodical approval for this action is requested.

e. Florida, though far to the south, can be included in the Eastern District. Consequent authorization by the last year's Synod, a field was opened on Florida's East Coast. Group meetings were begun on December 7, 1952. The objective is to locate in Lake Worth, a city of plus 12,000 inhabitants. Presently meetings are held in Delray Beach, nine miles south of Lake Worth, since no facilities were available in the latter place.

In this connection it may be well to correct an impression which apparently has arisen in the minds of some — the impression, namely, that this is service rendered by our Church to winter vacationers in Florida. Such is not the intent. The purpose rather is to establish our Church in the southland for those of our members who already have or must take up permanent residence there; and further by means of our gospel witness to evangelize and gather in others.

## 2. MICHIGAN.

Though the Michigan District is the first assignment of Missionary J. G. Van Dyke, he has also been called upon to assist elsewhere.

In the early months of 1952 he bestowed further care upon youthful congregations in whose organization he had a part during the previous year. Moreover Alger Park (Grand Rapids) was given attention. Other fields were initially surveyed to determine Church extension possibilities. Presently the brother is devoting his time to the Lugers Crossing area, to the west of Holland, where there is promise of a future Church.

Further, Missionary Van Dyke was directed to spend a few months in the exacting Salt Lake City field.

## 3. CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE.

a. Bellwood, Illinois, though having joined the category of calling Churches until now has been unable to procure its own pastor. Consequently Missionary Renze De Groot continued to care for this youthful flock. The congregation, which is the fruit of both evangelization and Church extension, is determined to forge ahead. A parsonage has been built. A sizeable budget has been adopted. In view of the departure of Rev. De Groot to Creston, Grand Rapids, it is all the more urgent that Bellwood may ere long be gladdened with an acceptance.

b. Wheaton, Illinois, having sought and being granted permission to call its own pastor, is now served by Dr. J. E. Luchies. At the same time Mr. Luchies continues to carry his teaching assignment at Wheaton College.

c. Evergreen Park, Illinois. Since from various Chicago communities our people moved to the Evergreen Park area, the need of a second congregation became apparent. Upon request Missionary De Groot was authorized to assist in obtaining this objective. There is every indication that here ere long a flourishing second Church will be added to our denominational family.

Moreover, due to population shifts, other suburban communities to the south of Chicago give promise both for evangelization and Church extension.

d. Milwaukee, Wisconsin rejoices in the labors of Missionary Edward Boer. The exemplary perseverance of our brethren and sisters there against great odds is being rewarded. Recently the missionary could report: "Milwaukee has reached a very significant goal! First services in our new Church were held on January 18, a day which will long be remembered. A drive for \$1800.00 was conducted the following week and the goal was more than achieved since we raised some \$2300.00 in cash and pledges. This gives some indication of the enthusiasm of our people . . . The Churches of Classis Wisconsin are seeking to raise \$5,000.00 for the Church furnishings. We are deeply grate-

ful for the loyal support of our neighboring Churches. Credit is due to the Home Missions Committee of the Classis! . . . The new Church is opening up a broad field for mission endeavor. Many contacts have been made already, and we feel that the work is a great challenge."

e. MADISON, the capitol and university city of Wisconsin, has a few of our families. This field was brought to the attention of the Home Missions Committee of Classis Wisconsin and the Executive Committee. Exploratory surveys are being made and meetings held. Subsequently we hope to determine if and when this field should be permanently occupied.

#### 4. MIDWEST DISTRICT.

a. Des Moines, Iowa is making normal progress. During the past year seven families and four individuals were added to the congregation, which now has twenty-two families. Some of these members have come to us from other affiliations. In the case of one, first contact was established through the Back to God Hour messages.

The devoted Missionary John C. Medendorp and the membership are grateful for the completion of their chapel. Theirs is now a place of worship which they can call their own. Moreover they can now make an outreach with the gospel to the unchurched in the community, and invite them to the chapel rather than the Adventist school in which meetings were held until recently.

b. Lemars, Iowa rejoices in the labors of Missionary Peter Honderd. A gradual growth is discernable. The Lord is blessing the work. Reluctance on the part of some to leave the more distant and larger Church for the closer by and smaller group is a retarding factor. Yet from time to time there are new families that affiliate, which is ever a source of encouragement to the faithful pastor as well as the membership. Others who promise to affiliate when the group becomes more established stimulate the spirit of hope for the future. Yet a larger sense of responsibility toward the work of the Lord in their own vicinity might be instrumental in reaching that very objective the sooner.

Present meeting facilities are becoming crowded. The twin purpose, organization and a Church building of their own, is kept in mind by our Lemars' saints and their missionary-pastor.

c. Minneapolis, Minnesota "is definitely marching ahead." This does not mean phenomenal growth, though accessions are being reported. The Church for some time has enjoyed the full-time labors of Missionary Sidney Werkema. A good wholesome spirit is discernable.

In view of the contemplated transfer of the present missionary to another field, the congregation may ere long again put forth efforts to procure its own pastor. Here indeed is a field that offers promise and a great challenge to men that have caught the vision of evangelism. May the Lord soon send forth a laborer into this harvest.

We are grateful to our God that Rev. Werkema, who in the course of the year became ill with an affliction which at first appeared serious, has fully recovered. His life has been spared for the service of the Church and the care of his family.

d. Willmar, Minnesota has reached a place in the category of calling Churches. To date efforts to procure a pastor have been unsuccessful. The membership continues in prayer that before long their efforts in this direction may meet with a favorable response. It is said "that Willmar has an unlimited opportunity for Church Extension."

As a further matter of interest we quote from a recent report of the missionary: "Both Willmar and Minneapolis donated generously to the Calvin Drive. Is there any doubt that Home Missions even pay from a financial point of view in the light of these facts? The striking point is that contributions are made regularly by those who previously had no connection with our denomination."

f. Rochester, Minnesota. At the Mayo Clinic and hospitals here Rev. Anthony A. Koning, pastor of our Hollandale Church, continues his work of spiritual ministrations and consolation. A few excerpts from his latest report show the importance of this assignment.

"Looking over the past year I may say it has been a blessed year. As we make our trips to Rochester, the Clinic and the various hospitals, we find more and more occasion to speak a word to those in greatest need. There were several weeks when I had five or six patients (from our own Churches), besides a number of their relatives, to visit. It need hardly be said that the work is greatly appreciated. Time and again patients tell me to express their thanks to the Board for undertaking this work. With an appropriate word from the scriptures we try to keep their eyes on Him who is the Beginner and Finisher of our faith. People ever seem to be quite ready to open their hearts and souls. We seek then to lead them to the throne of grace. May I add, the work has been a wonderful blessing to me."

##### 5. SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.

a. Tucson, Arizona has joined the ranks of calling Churches. As yet prayers by the congregation and efforts to obtain their own pastor have not been realized.

In view of its isolation it was deemed inadvisable that this flock be without the regular services of a pastor. Hence the request that Missionary Gerrit B. Boerefyn remain until such time that a minister has been procured found approval. In the meantime our consecrated brother continues to seek out the unchurched as well as his care for the membership. Presently he is instructing a class of twelve who desire to make profession of faith or wish to affiliate with our Church. To the membership of this class belong two who formerly were Roman Catholics.

b. Lakewood City, Calif. The labors of Missionary Frank De Jong in this field are being blessed. As elsewhere, discouragements to test the perseverance of the servants of the Lord are not wanting. And here the missionary is devoting his efforts to a people which does not have our background. Prayer and patience are daily requisites.

Yet when looking back over the comparatively few years in which work was done in this typically American field, there is reason for deep gratitude. The average Sunday School attendance is between 120 and 150. Special reason for joy is that the group has come to the point where they have petitioned organization. Truly the work of the Lord is never in vain whether it be done for the multitudes in Samaria or a lone traveler in the desert. For both ministrations the Master used the same evangelist Philip, and his zeal was identical in either case.

c. Alameda and San Jose, Calif. Presently fields for Church extension are being investigated in the Alameda area and in the city of San Jose. Initially the possibilities for kingdom work in both cities may be assigned for exploration to one of our seminarians.

#### 6. RADIO EVANGELISM.

Our minister for radio evangelism, the Rev. Harold Dekker, has been kept busy throughout the year with his follow-up work and related activities. During the summer months he devoted some time to broadcasting while the radio pastor, the Rev. Peter Eldersveld, was away on vacation. Moreover Mr. Dekker has been granted leave to speak on the Back to God Hour during the months of June, July and August of the current year, thereby giving our radio pastor opportunity to engage in post-graduate study during the summer. And Rev. Dekker has been authorized to extend the follow-up work by means of literature distribution.

With respect to the fields we note the following:

a. Champaign-Urbana, Illinois is now being served by Dr. Fred Klooster. The brother comes well equipped for his mission assignment in this university center. His devotion to the task has become evident.

The work, as in so many another field small in its beginning, is progressing. Attendance is increasing, having more than tripled over that of the previous year. Moreover the missionary has organized a discussion group with resident students. Meetings are held regularly at the pastor's home.

b. Albuquerque, N. M. Here services have been inaugurated. Various ministers have served this group. Among them Evangelist Miner Tanis, who was loaned for a three-month period by our Franklin Street Consistory while they generously continued to pay the brother's salary. However, to do effective work a missionary must be placed in Albuquerque; plans to obtain that objective are in the making.

c. Salt Lake City. Also in this Mormon center services are being held regularly. This field is strategic with a view to the immigrant membership, evangelism and radio responses. The more so since Holland immigrants are lured hither by Mormon sponsors. Hence, the placement of a missionary in this city, already approved by Synod, is an immediate necessity.

d. Columbus, Ohio presents promise. The few resident families are meeting in a disbanded and remodeled school house. The General Committee at its annual meeting authorized the Executive Committee to find ways and means of manning this field. Synodical approval is herewith requested.

e. Oklahoma City, Okla. Here too, as in Columbus, a few resident families meet regularly in a rented room. As yet they have not enjoyed the services of a minister, except an occasional visit by the Rev. Dekker, and, as in the case of Columbus, a summer assignment by seminarians: With respect to this field likewise the General Committee authorized its Executive Committee to find ways and means for placing a missionary in Oklahoma City. Synodical approval is herewith requested.

f. Other Fields visited by our minister for radio evangelism consequent radio responses received are: Memphis, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; Beaumont, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, El Paso and Dallas, Texas, and St. Louis, Mo. In none of these cities organized mission activities are as yet warranted.

#### 7. STUDENT SUMMER FIELD WORK.

Student pastors were engaged during the summer recess. The experience thus received and the services rendered were mutually profitable. A total of nineteen seminarians were engaged. Nine of these were given assignments in Canada. Not all of these men were able to exhort in Dutch. Services were so arranged, wherever possible, that the Sunday messages could be delivered in English, and in their visitation work they managed to get by with Yankee Dutch. Ten seminarians were given assignments in various United States fields. Favorable reports, indicative of application and interest, were received.

#### 8. MISSIONARY-AT-LARGE AND SECRETARY.

The Missionary-at-Large, the Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, again traveled far and wide in the interest of our Home Missions program both in the States and Canada. He served several fields according to need. With respect to his often strenuous assignments, frequently taking him far from home and for protracted periods, it can be said that our esteemed brother never "wearies in well-doing".

The Secretary, the Rev. H. Blystra, with the aid of a part-time assistant, had charge of the extensive correspondence, the monthly re-

ports and the voluminous secretarial work. Moreover he took over assignments which the busy Missionary-at-Large was not able to discharge, engaged in field work especially in Canada, and with the Rev. Vande Kieft promoted the cause of Home Missions wherever opportunity was given.

#### 9. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Our congregation at Rochester, N. Y., unable to assume full responsibility for the financial load to carry out its local evangelism program, has requested aid to the extent of \$2000.00 per annum. This request has the endorsement of the Eastern Home Missions Board and the General Committee for Home Missions, and is herewith submitted to Synod for final action.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR CHURCH EXTENSION FOR 1954

Missionary salaries .....	\$ 58,375.00	
Missionary expenses .....	23,500.00	
Rent and taxes .....	3,500.00	
Fire insurance .....	500.00	
Pulpit supplies .....	3,000.00	
Student summer supplies .....	10,000.00	
Moving .....	3,500.00	
Contingencies .....	7,840.00	
Buildings .....	100,000.00	
New fields .....	15,000.00	
Rochester, N. Y. ....	2,000.00	
Administrative expenses .....	4,600.00	
Totals .....		\$231,815.00
Salary-Credits .....	\$7,200.00	
Building Credits .....	4,500.00	
Refund Credits .....	1,375.00	
Total .....		13,075.00
Net Total .....		\$218,740.00

To meet this budget Synod is requested to set the per-family quota for Church Extension for 1954 at \$5.50.

### PART IV THE CANADIAN FIELD

#### A. MISSIONARIES.

The Church extension task in Canada continues to be a major assignment. Shall we regard it as an opportunity? If so, it is a kingdom opportunity as our Church has never had before in its history. We must make the best of it and not let it slip. Shall we look upon it as a burden? If so, it is a burden laid upon us by the Lord. Let us then sacrificially accept that burden in the spirit of surrender unto the Lord and in the spirit of service unto our fellow saints.

Indeed our task in Canada is both great and glorious. And the end is not yet. During the seven months from February through August of this year twenty-two boats are expected to convey their immigrant

passengers to Canada. And additional settlers may come during these and subsequent months either on other boats or by plane. If the ratio of Reformed immigrants in this migration remains as it has been in the past few years, our denominational count of souls in Canada alone during the present year may be increased by at least 4000.

It needs no great imagination to realize that this further influx will place a heavy load upon our Canadian missionaries as well as the resident pastors. Their assignments are akin to a daily emergency. No wonder that these brethren long and pray for additional manpower. They yearn for pastoral hearts touched by the Spirit of God, beckoned by this harvest of souls, and anxious to join their ranks.

Our missionaries in Canada are busy men. Time for concentrated reading and study is rare. Consistorial meetings, sometimes as many as four in one week, and other gatherings demand their evenings. A major portion of nearly every day must be devoted to visitation work, counseling and consoling. Immigrant homes have been cast in gloom by the flood disaster in their former beloved fatherland, carrying near relatives to a sad and sudden death. These look to their missionary-pastors as conveyors of divine comfort.

Again it must not be overlooked that our missionaries in Canada are blessed servants of the Lord. Theirs is a task that throbs with life. Theirs is a fruitful labor, and what harvest hand of the Master would not therein rejoice! Though at times body and mind may grow weary, the Lord does not fail his own in giving strength for the day. Of course there are problems, disappointments and discouragements, but these are more than compensated by the appreciation and affection of saintly hearts that respond to the manifold ministrations of the manifold grace of God.

Let us esteem these brethren as well as their missionary colleagues in the States and Foreign fields. Let us give expression to that esteem by generous support of the work which we as a Church have laid upon them. Let us give utterance to that esteem by our intercessory implorations before the throne of grace.

#### B. CALLING.

At the moment we have requests for the placement of four additional missionaries in the Canadian field. It is expected that soon the Maritimes, where immigrants are beginning to settle, will be added to the list of fields needing a worker. Moreover the expected immigrant influx during 1953 may require still more men as the year progresses.

Hence we petition Synod that its Committee again be authorized to call missionaries for Canada according to need.

#### C. CHURCHES.

Numerically, as well as in membership, our Churches in Canada are growing rapidly. Some years ago we had but few Churches there and not one Classis. Now we have several Churches and four Classes.



During the past year the following congregations were organized:  
 Ontario — Peterborough, Ridgetown, Lindsay, Ryckman Corners  
 (now Mount Hamilton), St. Thomas, Williamsburg, Stanford, Springdale,  
 West Toronto, Cobden — Pembroke replacing Cobden.

Saskatchewan — Saskatoon.

Alberta — Calgary, High River, Vauxhall, Smithers.

British Columbia — Courtenay-Campbell River, Chilliwack, New  
 Westminster, Duncan, Victoria, Terrace.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CANADIAN EMERGENCY FUND FOR 1954

Missionary salaries .....	\$ 70,275.00	
Missionary expenses .....	43,900.00	
Rent and taxes .....	3,950.00	
Fire insurance .....	600.00	
Pulpit supplies .....	5,000.00	
Student summer supplies .....	6,000.00	
Moving .....	4,000.00	
Contingencies .....	6,000.00	
Buildings .....	50,000.00	
New fields .....	25,000.00	
Administrative expenses .....	4,600.00	
Totals .....		\$219,325.00
Salary-Credits .....	\$12,200.00	
Building Credits .....	725.00	
Total .....	\$ 12,925.00	
Net Total .....		\$206,400.00

To meet this budget Synod is requested to set the per-family quota for  
 the Canadian Emergency Fund for 1954 at \$5.25 per family.

#### PART V

##### DISPLACED AND NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

In the course of the past year the names of 66 members were received. Of these 28 were listed as communicant and 38 as baptized members.

According to synodical instructions these names were placed on file. And when possible attempts were made to establish contact.

#### PART VI

##### YOUTH IN MILITARY SERVICE

We wish to begin this part of our report with a quotation from the inspired apostle through whom our Covenant God is speaking to us about our covenant youth in military service — "So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith." (Ga. 6:10) Permit us here to limit "household of the faith" to our own Church. Has the time come that Synod must place special emphasis on the statement: "especially toward them that are of the household of the faith"?

Our youth in military service belong to our household of faith. Yet the fund set aside to carry on the spiritual care in behalf of these youth and to be maintained by freewill collections has gone begging. Appeals addressed to our Churches by way of The Banner and to our Consistories by way of letter did not remove the recurring substantial shortage in the Soldier's Fund until mid-January of the current year. According to indications the reserve now on hand will again be exhausted by the end of March.

Yet the General Committee at its annual meeting instructed the Executive Committee to call a service-pastor-missionary for Alaska. And we expect that shortly San Diego will come with an urgent request that a service home be opened there. In view of the large contingent of men in the San Diego area our hospitable people there find it increasingly difficult to care for our youth in their homes. Consequently the resources of our Soldier's Fund should be greatly augmented. This is a must.

Withal we are hopeful that the money will come in. We are confident that our membership being aroused, sensing the moral and spiritual importance of this soldier's work, and the deep appreciation which our lads manifest, will not fail to do good, to do good generously to the youth that belong to our household of faith.

Again as in previous years much work has been done for our own youth in military service. Our ministers near to military establishments, our hospitable homes near these areas opened to our boys, our service pastors and our service homes have performed a blessed task deserving of gratitude. That work must be continued. That work may not be curtailed. It must be expanded.

Hence we request that Synod again authorize freewill collections by our churches for our Soldier's Fund.

## PART VII

### THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

#### A. INFORMATION.

1. During 1952 recipient Churches received their allotments as approved by Synod.

2. Moving expenses were granted to the following Churches: Phoenix, Arizona; Redlands II, California; Hartley, Iowa; Terra Ceia, North Carolina; Picton, Ontario; Essex, Ontario; Drayton, Ontario. The moving expenses totaled \$2189.92.

3. The schedule of payments for 1953 has been made available to the Synodical Budget Committee for perusal. In cases where a change was made in the amount of aid requested and the amount of aid granted, the recipient Church was notified in order that, if so desired, such Church might have opportunity to place its case before Synod.

To date 94 Churches have made application for this assistance from the Fund for Needy Churches for 1953. The allowances include the following items:

Subsidy .....	\$108,540.00	
Minor children .....	10,425.00	
Mileage .....	12,000.00	
Moving .....	3,000.00	
Administrative expenses .....	4,200.00	
Total .....		\$138,165.00

#### B. RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. We recommend that the minimum salary to be paid the ministers by the respective Churches receiving aid from the Fund for Needy Churches for 1954 in the United States be set at \$3300.00; in Canada at \$3600.00.

2. We recommend that mileage on the field be granted subsidized Churches for payment to their pastors over and above the first 5000 miles on the field. The rates at which this mileage is to be paid are: For the United States 5c per mile; for Eastern Canada 6c per mile; for Western Canada 7c per mile.

3. We recommend that a children's allowance in the United States of \$125.00 per child, in excess of the salary allowed be granted for 1954; a similar amount to be paid in Canada, inclusive of the government child allowance if and when paid.

4. We recommend that the minimum per-family contribution toward the pastor's salary of families belonging to subsidized Churches for 1954 be set at \$60.00 in the United States; and at \$35.00 in Canada.

5. We recommend that the denominational per-family quota for 1954 for the Fund for Needy Churches be set at \$3.45. This quota is based on the allowances granted for 1953.

### PART VIII.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1952.

##### I

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1952 CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

##### SCHEDULE A

##### RECEIPTS:

Balance, January 1, 1952 .....		\$ 26,866.34
Treasurers of Classes .....	\$174,061.04	
Gifts, Individual .....	\$3,104.00	
Gifts, Societies .....	4,238.18	
Gifts, Churches .....	9,073.04	16,415.22
Interest .....		250.00
Dividend .....		941.92
Sale of Rights .....		569.25
Refunds .....		2,373.45
Legacy .....		100.00

Loan .....	2,000.00	
Sale of Buildings .....	17,257.69	
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>\$218,968.57</b>
Canadian Funds .....		<b>4,287.52</b>
<b>Total balance and receipts</b> .....		<b>\$245,122.43</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Missionaries' salaries .....	\$ 53,763.61	
Missionaries' expenses .....	17,536.91	
Special services .....	13,533.75	
Homes and Chapels .....	112,189.68	
Moving expenses .....	1,656.94	
Repayment of loan .....	2,000.00	
Administrative expenses .....	3,841.75	
<b>Total disbursements</b> .....		<b>\$204,522.64</b>
Balance, December 31, 1952 .....		<b>\$ 40,599.79</b>

**II**  
**SCHEDULE B**  
**INVENTORY OF SECURITIES**

Van Agthoven Estate		
227½ Com. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....	\$ 7,621.25	
10 Pref. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....	1,000.00	
16 Com. shares, Little Miami R.R. ....	800.00	\$ 9,421.25
91 Com. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....		3,048.50
United States Bonds .....		7,500.00
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>\$ 19,969.75</b>

**SCHEDULE C**  
**MISSIONARY HOMES AND CHAPELS**

Expended .....	12/31/52	\$433,099.21
	12/31/51	339,234.02
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>\$ 93,815.19</b>
Des Moines, Iowa .....	\$ 475.00	
Hawthorne, N. J. ....	13,806.33	
Holland, Mich. ....	91.42	
Lakewood, Calif. ....	5,000.00	
Milwaukee, Wis. ....	31,795.04	
Monsey, N. Y. ....	3,482.35	
Urbana, Ill. ....	7,215.85	
Wanamassa, N. J. ....	30,043.25	
W. Allenhurst, N. J. ....	20,371.86	\$112,281.10
		\$91.42 under Adm. expense
Refunds, expenses and cancelled		
Tacoma, Lakeholme .....	13,606.18	
Tacoma, Nyanza .....	3,301.51	
Minneapolis .....	350.00	
Tacoma, Lakehome, exp. ....	1,121.29	
Tacoma, Nyanza, exp. ....	1.50	
Iowa Falls, cancelled .....	85.43	18,465.91
<b>Net increase</b> .....		<b>\$ 93,815.19</b>

III  
CANADIAN EMERGENCY FUND  
SCHEDULE A

## RECEIPTS:

Treasurers of Classes .....		\$153,623.98	
Gifts, Individual .....	\$ 725.00		
Gifts, Societies .....	1,800.56		
Gifts, Churches .....	10,574.97	13,100.53	
Refunds .....		7,116.36	
Loans .....		13,000.00	
Sale of Buildings .....		4,959.10	
Total .....			\$191,799.97
Canadian Funds .....			<u>13,288.18</u>
Total Receipts .....			\$205,088.15

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Missionaries' salaries .....	\$ 66,606.25		
Missionaries' expenses .....	23,061.81		
Special services .....	21,360.26		
Refund, Abbotsford .....	300.00		
Homes and Chapels .....	48,565.78		
Moving expenses .....	756.71		
Repayment of loans .....	13,000.00		
Interest .....	44.99		
Administrative expenses .....	3,841.75		
Total .....	\$177,537.55		
Canadian expenses .....	13,249.26		
Total .....			\$190,786.81
Operating balance, 1952 .....			\$ 14,801.34
Deficit, January 1, 1952 .....			36,941.12
Deficit, December 31, 1952 .....			<u>\$ 22,639.78</u>

IV  
SCHEDULE B  
MISSIONARY HOMES AND CHAPELS

Expended .....		12/31/52	\$279,521.94
		12/31/51	235,664.27
Total .....			\$ 43,857.67
Barrie, Ont. ....	\$10,624.19		
Calgary, Alta. ....	15,537.25		
Cockrane, Ont. ....	6.00		
Cornwall, Ont. ....	7,265.05		
Emo, Ont. ....	1,300.00		
London, Ont. ....	1,214.04		
Owen Sound, Ont. ....	177.50		
Peterborough, Ont. ....	8,638.09		
Stoney Creek, Ont. ....	16,784.82		
Totals .....			\$ 61,546.94
Refunds			
Abbotsford, B. C. ....	4,659.10		
Aylmer, Ont. ....	725.04		
St. Catherines, Ont. ....	12,305.13		
Totals .....			\$ 17,689.27
Net Increase .....			\$ 43,857.67

V  
**FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES**  
**SCHEDULE A**

**RECEIPTS:**

Balance, January 1, 1952 .....		\$ 33,683.61
Treasurers of Classes .....	\$ 61,015.03	
Gifts, Societies .....	150.00	
Interest .....	1,165.00	
Dividend .....	705.28	
Sales of Rights .....	406.60	
Bonds redeemed .....	700.00	
Refund .....	110.00	
Total .....		64,251.91
Canadian Funds .....		2,421.66
Total balance and receipts .....		<u>\$100,357.18</u>

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Subsidies .....	\$ 81,952.59	
Children allowances .....	9,246.19	
Mileage .....	3,416.27	
Moving expenses .....	1,889.92	
Administrative expenses .....	3,841.75	
Total .....		\$100,346.72
Canadian expenses .....		6,790.84
Total .....		<u>\$107,137.56</u>
Deficit, December 31, 1952 .....		\$ 6,780.38

**SCHEDULE B**  
**INVENTORY OF SECURITIES**

227½ Com. Shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....	\$ 7,621.25	
10 Pref. Shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....	1,000.00	
16 Common Shares, Little Miami RR. ....	800.00	
Total .....		\$ 9,421.25
United States Bonds .....		37,500.00
Washington, D.C. Chr. Ref'd Church Bonds .....		9,300.00
Total .....		<u>\$ 56,221.25</u>

**VI**  
**SOLDIER'S FUND**

**RECEIPTS:**

Treasurers of Classes .....	\$ 22,397.12	
Individuals .....	815.50	
Societies .....	1,461.38	
Churches .....	1,731.59	
Refunds .....	325.60	
Total .....		\$ 26,731.19
Canadian Funds .....		65.30
Total .....		<u>\$ 26,796.49</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries .....	\$ 8,630.16		
Expenses .....	19,300.92	27,931.08	
Operating deficit, 1952 .....		1,134.59	
Deficit, January 1, 1952 .....		2,262.13	
Deficit, December 31, 1952 .....			\$ 3,396.72

**FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR  
GEESTELYKE VERZORGING OFVARENDEN KOOPVAARDY  
UITGAANDE VAN DE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN NEDERLAND  
(Dutch Merchant Marine)**

Balance, January 1, 1952 .....	\$ 1,050.00		
Receipts, 1952 .....	6,000.00	\$ 7,050.00	
Disbursements .....		5,550.00	
Balance, December 31, 1952 .....			\$ 1,500.00

## VII

## ACCOUNT, CANADIAN FUNDS

FROM	AMOUNT RECEIVED	FOR CH. EXT.	FOR F.N.C.	FOR CAN. EMR.	FOR S.F.
Treas. of					
Classes Refund, .....	\$12,146.23	\$4,287.52	\$2,421.66	\$5,308.18	\$65.30
Pulpit Sus. Refund, .....	7,000.00			7,000.00	
Aylmer C.R.C. ....	726.00			726.00	
Societies .....	89.00			89.00	
Churches .....	165.00			165.00	
Deduct amount for .....	\$20,126.23				
Can Emerg. Bldg. Fund. \$	63.57				
Totals .....	\$20,062.66	\$4,287.52	\$2,421.66	\$13,288.18	\$65.30

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Miscy. expense .....	\$11,469.37			\$11,469.37	
Subsidy and chil. allow. ....	5,067.38		5,067.38		
Mileage .....	1,423.46		1,423.46		
Moving .....	810.06		300.00	510.06	
Special Services .....	171.88			171.88	
Buildings .....	1,097.95			1,097.95	
TOTALS .....	\$20,040.10		\$6,790.84	\$13,249.26	
BAL. DEC. 31, 1952 .....	\$ 22.56	\$4,287.52		\$ 38.92	\$65.30
DEFICIT, Dec. 31, 1952 .....			\$4,369.18		

\* \* \* \* \*

## CASH ACCOUNT

Balances, December 31, 1952 in CH. EXT. ....	\$4,287.52
Canadian Emergency .....	38.92
Soldier's Fund .....	65.30
TOTAL .....	\$4,391.74
Deficit, December 31, 1953 in F.N.C. ....	\$4,369.18
Cash on hand, December 31, 1952 .....	\$ 22.56

## VIII

## COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	FOR CH. EXT.	FOR F.N.C.	FOR CN. EMR	FOR S.F.
BALANCES					
Jan. 1, 1952 .....	\$ 26,866.34		\$ 33,683.61		\$1,050.00
Receipts, 1952 .....	218,256.09	205,088.15	66,673.57	26,796.49	6,000.00
TOTALS .....	\$245,122.43	\$205,088.15	\$100,357.18	\$26,796.49	\$7,050.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

1952 .....	\$204,522.64	\$190,786.81	\$107,137.56	\$27,931.08	\$5,550.00
<b>BALANCES</b>					
Dec. 31, 1952 ....	\$ 40,599.79	\$ 14,301.34			\$1,500.00
Deficits, Dec. 31,					
1952 .....			6,780.38	1,134.59	
Deficits,					
Jan. 1, 1952 .....		36,941.12		2,262.13	
Deficits,					
Dec. 31, 1952 ....		\$ 22,639.78	\$ 6,780.38	\$ 3,396.72	
Balances,					
Dec. 31, 1952 ....	\$ 40,599.79				\$1,500.00
	*	*	*	*	*

CASH ACCOUNT

Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1952 .....		\$ 22,396.70	
Receipts, 1952			
Church Extension .....	\$218,256.09		
Canadian Emergency .....	205,088.15		
F. N. C. ....	66,673.57		
Soldier's Fund .....	26,796.49		
Dutch M. M. ....	6,000.00		
Total .....		\$522,814.30	
Total Balance and Receipts .....			\$545,211.00
Disbts, 1952			
Church Extension .....	\$204,522.64		
Canadian Emergency .....	190,786.81		
F. N. C. ....	107,137.56		
Soldier's Fund .....	27,931.08		
Dutch M. M. ....	5,550.00		
Totals .....	\$535,928.09		\$535,928.09
Cash on hand, Dec. 31, 1952 .....			\$ 9,282.91
In Old Kent Bank .....		\$ 9,260.35	
In Canada with Mr. Vander Vliet .....		22.56	
Total .....		\$ 9,282.91	

BALANCES

December 31, 1952

Church Extension .....	\$40,599.79
Dutch M. M. ....	1,500.00
Total .....	\$42,099.79

DEFICITS

December 31, 1952

Canadian Emergency .....	\$22,639.78
F. N. C. ....	6,780.38
Soldier's Fund .....	3,396.72
Totals .....	\$32,816.88

\* \* \* \* \*

BALANCES, .....	\$42,099.79
DEFICITS, .....	32,816.88
CASH .....	\$ 9,282.91



General Committee for Home Missions of  
The Christian Reformed Church  
Gentlemen:

We have examined the accounting records and vouchers of your Mission for the year ended December 31, 1952. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

The hereby presented Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year 1952 does, in my opinion, present fairly the results of the operations of your Mission.

Very truly yours,  
PETER B. VANDER MEER, C.P.A.

PVM:NB

### SUMMARY OF MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ATTENTION

PART III — *Church Extension* — U. S. Field.

1. Missionary for Philadelphia.
2. Missionary for Columbus.
3. Missionary for Oklahoma City.
4. Rochester N. Y. aid request.
5. Quota for 1954.

PART IV — *The Canadian Field*.

1. Calling of missionaries according to need.
2. Quota for 1954.

PART VI — *Youth in Military Service*.

Offerings for 1954.

PART VII — *Fund for Needy Churches*.

Allowance recommendations.

May the God of all grace grant Synod the needed guidance in the discharge of its Kingdom deliberations and decisions.

Humbly submitted,  
The General Committee for Home  
Missions,  
H. BLYSTRA, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT 21-A**

(Arts. 68, 69, 76, 105, 125, 157, 158)

**GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

In this supplementary report we beg to call your attention to two matters; namely, the opening of the Alaska field and the Fund for Needy Churches.

**A. ALASKA**

As reported in the Agenda (1953), page 121, the General Committee for Home Missions at its annual meeting instructed the Executive Committee to call a service-pastor-missionary for Alaska.

In view of a disturbing agitation carried on in recent months with respect to the opening of the Alaskan field, we deem it necessary

(a) To review the history which led to the decision as reported in the Agenda and request Synod that it approve the inauguration of service-pastor work and evangelism in Alaska; and

(b) To request Synod in a separate document to pass judgment upon the work of its General Committee and Executive Committee for Home Missions.

*History*

The first reference to Alaska is found in the minutes of your Committee in 1950. Article 22g of the minutes of February 8, 1950 tells us, "Seminarian R. Tadema has submitted a request that we direct the attention of Synod to Alaska as a prospective mission field. Upon motion it is decided that we inform him that due to inadequate information we cannot propose Alaska as a mission field to Synod."

Again at the General Meeting of 1951 (Minutes February 7, 8 and 9, article 22) the same field was brought to our attention. We read, "Upon request from the Home Missions Committee of Classis Minnesota, the Rev. J. Vanden Hoek pleads for the inauguration of mission work in Alaska.

Proposals submitted are:

- a. . . . .
- b. That the Rev. C. L. Van Zee be delegated to make an extensive investigation of the Alaska field with a view to its mission possibilities.
- c. That in the interim the General Committee assume responsibility for supplying the pulpit of the Rev. C. L. Van Zee at Hancock, Minnesota.

From the information submitted it appears that to date less than ten families or individuals belonging to our Church are residing in various scattered areas in Alaska.

Upon motion it is decided to reply:

a. . . . .

b. That both the present Christian Reformed population in Alaska, and the great need for evangelization at home, do not warrant our entrance into the Alaska field.

c. That this action be submitted to the Synod for approval."

This approval was granted by the Synod of 1951 and a further motion that "Synod instruct the General Home Missions Committee to make an investigation of the possibilities of the Alaska field" was rejected. (Acts 1951, page 33, b and c)

At the meeting of the General Committee held on February 6, 7 and 8, 1952 consideration was given anew to Alaska and this in view of the fact that reportedly several of our youth in military service were stationed here. We read, "Inasmuch as it is reported that some fifty of our servicemen are stationed in Alaska, and the Alaska territory once and again has been brought to the attention of our church public as a potential home mission field, it is decided that a thorough preliminary investigation be made of the mission possibilities in Alaska; and further that it be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee to determine what should be done." (Minutes, article 13a)

Pursuant this decision Classis Minnesota under date of March 11, 1952 addressed the following communication to the Executive Committee for Home Missions:

"Esteemed Brethren,

Classis Minnesota wishes to register with your honorable body its disapproval of the two-man investigation trip to Alaska, proposed by the General Committee for Home Missions, on the grounds that:

1. The money involved in such a survey is needlessly spent; and
2. The information at hand is sufficient.

With Christian greetings,  
PETER VAN TUINEN, S.C."

This same disapproval may have occasioned the overture of Classis Minnesota petitioning "That Synod use more caution in entering upon new mission fields, and rather develop the fields that we have already," one of the grounds being "The readiness to authorize exploratory trips to faraway places which involve great expense, whereas, in the judgment of this Classis, this appears to be unnecessary." (Acts 1952, page 525)

At all events under date of March 22, 1952 we informed Classis Minnesota that it was not our intent to authorize a trip to Alaska for

investigation "Considering that it is possible to gain information at the proper Washington, D. C. and New York offices re Alaska, as to its number of inhabitants; distribution of population; the number of missionaries laboring there; the need and possibility of more mission work; the number of servicemen in Alaska, their distribution, and the permissibility on the part of army authorities to send a service pastor there."

This information was gathered in the cities mentioned by our Missionary-at-Large, Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, while on an itinerary in the New York area. Pursuant this report it was decided on August 20, 1952 to place the recommendations of the Missionary-at-Large before the General Committee for Home Missions at its annual meeting in February of the current year, and if action on the part of the General Committee to begin work in Alaska was favorable, to seek the approval of the present Synod. At this same August meeting it was further decided that our Missionary-at-Large "visit our servicemen in Alaska if satisfactory plans can be worked out with the respective military commands in Alaska."

In the meantime Classis Minnesota had reversed its position re Alaska. Having registered "its disapproval of the two-man investigation trip to Alaska" in March, 1952 we received the following communication under date of September 1, 1952:

*Grounds:*

"Classis Minnesota, convened at Pease, Minnesota, August 26-29, 1952, decided:

To urge the General Home Missions Committee to send a service pastor to Alaska as soon as possible.

1. Classis Minnesota has received an overture from the Bethel, Edgerton, Christian Reformed Church, emphasizing the need of a service pastor in Alaska.

2. Rev. J. Vande Kieft (Missionary-at-Large), after an investigation of Government files, recommended that a service pastor be sent to Alaska.

3. A letter to this Classis from Mr. Swier, President of the Society for the First Christian Reformed Church at Anchorage, shows that the Reformed and Protestant Reformed Churches are showing interest in the Alaska Field, but that the group of Christian Reformed Members in Alaska choose to promote the Christian Reformed Church, and ought to be encouraged in their effort.

For Classis Minnesota  
PETER VAN TUINEN, S.C."

Moreover, a communication was made available "from a group of servicemen in Anchorage, Alaska, stating that initial steps have been taken toward the organization of a Christian Reformed Church in that locality." Though pressure was thus placed upon us the Executive Committee decided "that no action be taken until the Missionary-at-Large has had opportunity personally to survey the field." (Minutes September 25, 1952, article 7)

This investigation having been made in the fall of 1952, the minutes of the Executive Committee dated November 20, 1952, article 4, record:

"The Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft having returned from Alaska, submitted an oral report, to be followed by a written report at a later date. Considering:

a) The large number of our servicemen presently stationed in Alaska;

b) The isolation to which these men are subjected;

c) The spiritual peril whereby they are threatened;

d) And a small nucleus of Christian Reformed residents in Alaska, the recommendation to send a service-pastor to Alaska finds favor. The execution of the approval plan is contingent upon the receipts for the Soldier's Fund."

Coming now to the meeting of the General Committee held on February 4, 5 and 6, 1953 we read in Article 16 of the minutes:

"Upon motion it is decided that a service-pastor-missionary be placed in this field; details are to be worked out by the Executive Committee."

At the same meeting of the General Committee a nomination for Alaska was prepared, comprising the Revs. W. Heynen, J. Hasper and Seminarian F. Bultman. From this nomination the names of the Revs. W. Heynen and J. Hasper were submitted to our Bethel Edgerton Consistory, which had signified its readiness to serve as calling church for the Alaskan field. Subsequently a call was extended to Mr. Heynen and the brother was led to accept the challenge placed before him. He is to be installed on the 18th of this month.

In the light of the history as reviewed above, we request Synod to approve the inauguration of service-pastor work and evangelism in Alaska.

## B. FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

### 1. *Arlene, Michigan.*

The request of the Arlene Church for aid from the F. N. C. for 1953 to the extent of \$2,230.00 and approved by Classis Muskegon, was considered by the General Committee for Home Missions at its annual meeting in February of this year. Re this petition for aid from the

F. N. C. "the secretary is instructed to request Classis Muskegon that it consider whether Arlene should continue in the category of calling churches and be given promise of aid from the F. N. C. (Minutes February 4, 5 and 6, 1953, article 19 d-4)

This decision was motivated by the following considerations:

a. The Arlene Church is declining in membership and does not show promise of growth in the foreseeable future. Last year the congregation numbered fifteen families; for this year thirteen families are reported in the F. N. C. questionnaire and twelve families are reported in a later list recorded in the Yearbook.

b. If the request of \$2,230.00 subsidy is granted the Arlene congregation will receive \$185.85 per family for its twelve families from the F. N. C.

c. If the Arlene congregation is taken out of the calling church category, classical supplies and student pastor services need not necessarily be discontinued.

d. In our automobile age Arlene membership reportedly without great inconvenience can well worship in other of our neighboring churches.

e. In view of the foregoing considerations the General Committee for Home Missions did not deem continued aid from the Fund for Needy Churches to Arlene to the extent of \$2,230.00 warranted.

Pursuant this decision the Clerk of Classis Muskegon under date of February 26, 1953, replied:

"*Classis Muskegon*, at its meeting of yesterday, held in the Muskegon Heights Christian Reformed Church, considered your communication relative continued aid from the F. N. C. for Arlene. Classis decided as follows: Classis Muskegon decided to stand behind its request for support from the F. N. C. for Arlene, on the ground that neither Classis nor the Consistory of Arlene has had time enough to consider the matter. Classis decided to advise Arlene not to call a minister until Synod has made favorable disposition of the matter."

By virtue of the action taken by Classis Muskegon the Arlene subsidy request is herewith placed before Synod for disposition.

2. *Reinstatement of F. N. C. Rule.* Considering that substantial subsidies are being paid from the Fund for Needy Churches, especially to our churches in Canada, a motion prevails that we request Synod to reinstate a former rule; namely, that churches receiving assistance from this source be expected to loan their pastors for service in Home Mission fields.

We recommend that a pastor, if and when needed, be expected to give one week's service—including Sunday—for each \$200.00 salary assistance received.

*Grounds:*

a. The reinstatement of this rule will enable us to procure interim and urgently needed manpower.

b. The reinstatement of this rule will be an incentive for churches receiving assistance from the F. N. C. to assume larger salary responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Executive Committee for Home Missions*  
H. BLYSTRA, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT 21-B**

(Arts. 68, 69, 76, 105, 125, 157, 158)

**COMMUNICATIONS IN RE ALASKA FIELD**

R. J. Danhof, Th.D.  
*Stated Clerk of Synod,*  
 944 Neland Ave., S.E.  
 Grand Rapids 7, Mich.

Hancock, Minnesota,  
 May 26, 1953

Dear Dr. Danhof:

The Consistory of the Hancock Christian Reformed Church of Hancock, Minnesota, sends to you a communication of one of its members. The matter dealt with in the communication is of denominational concern, and for that reason we are sending it on without committing ourselves on the particular merits of each question raised.

We realize that this communication is not coming by way of both Consistory and Classis, but the communication deals with developments that occurred after the last session of Classis Minnesota North, and thus to bring it to Classis before the Synod of 1953 would be impossible.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Consistory of the Hancock Christian  
 Reformed Church.  
 Hancock, Minnesota.

(Signed by the following:)

H. J. Van Otterloo, Clerk	Kenneth K. Evink
Ray Ver Steeg	John De Gier, Jr.
John Noorloos	Rev. C. L. Van Zee
Popke Wester	

Done in Consistory: May 26, 1953.

Hancock, Minnesota,  
 May 15, 1953

General Home Mission Committee of the Chr. Ref. Church,  
*Brethren:*

Please present this communication to the Synod of 1953.

Since the Synod of 1952 the General Home Missions Committee has entered upon a new mission field one-fifth the size of the United States. This venture is made known to the denomination in one seemingly apologetic sentence in the Agenda (page 121): "Yet the General Committee at its annual meeting instructed the Executive Committee to call a service-pastor-missionary for Alaska." Following this sentence is an elaboration on a possible service home in San Diego. I, and perhaps others, would like to know more about Alaska than I can learn from the one sentence found in the Agenda under YOUTH IN MILITARY SERVICE.

1. Are the troop concentrations in Alaska to be served simultaneously? If not, which area is to receive first attention, and why?
2. Is our aim in Alaska to establish service homes, or churches? Are entertaining ventures included in the mandate of the church?



Regarding soldier entertainment (Agenda p. 121): "Consequently the resources of our Soldier's Fund should be greatly augmented. This is a must?"

#### IS IT A MUST?

Agenda, p. 120: "Permit us here to limit 'household of faith' to our own Church."

May we permit such limitation? We have almost no money in the Soldier's Fund and almost no chaplains in the service. Could this be the result of an *apartheid* tendency that confuses?

3. If the aim is to establish churches—what policy? Indigenous or ecclesiastical paternalism? A Welfare Church in Alaska might lead to an Ignominious Farewell.

4. Admittedly there is "adequate liason" (Agenda 219) between the BTGH and the Home Missions Committee. The Home Missions Committee is responsible for the youth in military service. In the files of the BTGH is a letter dated July 10, 1949 showing that BTGH programs can be broadcast free over military stations. How much longer must our servicemen in Korea, Canada, Germany, Japan, and Alaska wait for the BTGH programs?

5. Now that the Home Missions Committee has "opened" the Alaska field, is Alaska thereby "closed" to the activity of an individual church or Classis? What is basic: a committee or the church? Would the words, "*Thou bearest not the root, but the root thee*" (Romans 11:18) cast any light on the preceding question?

Humbly submitted,  
a co-laborer in the KING'S BUSINESS.  
(Signed) C. L. VAN ZEE.

June 1, 1953

Dr. R. J. Danhof,  
*Clerk of Synod,*  
944 Neland Ave., S.E.  
Grand Rapids 7, Mich.  
*Dear Brother:*

The Executive Committee for Home Missions, which met on May 28 last, took the following decision:

"Whereas the calling of a service-pastor-missionary for Alaska has been made an occasion for Rev. C. L. Van Zee to mail derogatory communications to several of our consistories and church leaders re the work of the Synodical General and Executive Committees for Home Missions, it is decided:

- a. to acquaint Synod with this fact.
- b. To request Synod that it pass judgment upon and approve the work of its General and Executive Committees for Home Missions.
- c. To instruct the Secretary that he provide the Synodical Committee for pre-advice with the needed documents.
- d. To instruct the Secretary that he forward copy of these decisions to Rev. C. L. Van Zee."

I trust that you will place this communication and request with the proper committee for pre-advice. Subsequently, I hope to have the material ready which this committee may desire to have available.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) H. BLYSTRA, *Secretary.*

### Van Zee — Correspondence

To the Synodical Committee for pre-advise.

*Brethren:*

Having been instructed to provide the Synodical Committee for pre-advise with the needed documents re the derogatory communications of the Rev. C. L. Van Zee and occasioned by the opening of the Alaskan field, I present the following:

Two questions must needs be asked

A. Do these derogations concern the General and Executive Committee for Home Missions?

B. What is the content of these derogations?

A. DO THESE DEROGATIONS CONCERN THE GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS?

This question we deem relevant since Rev. Van Zee does not explicitly state that he has the Synodical Committee for Home Missions in mind. For an affirmative answer to this question we adduce the following:

1. The dissatisfaction of Rev. C. L. Van Zee was publicized subsequent the decision of the General Committee to open the Alaskan field and call a missionary. His letter, evidently mailed to all the consistories, is dated March 30, 1953. (Exhibit A)

2. The caption of this letter addressed to the consistories reads: "ALASKA—A New Dawn for Missions? PERHAPS . . . ." (Exhibit A) Alaska is the field which the General Committee for Home Missions decided to man.

3. In another critical communication dated May 13, 1953, Mr. Van Zee again mentions Alaska and further refers to Minneapolis, Willmar, Albuquerque and the Soldier's Work. (Exhibit B) These kingdom fields are under the care of the Home Missions Committee of Synod.

4. The Consistory of our Western Springs, Illinois, Church having received the above-mentioned letter from Rev. Van Zee, concluded that the charges were lodged against our Committee. In his reply to this letter of the Consistory of Western Springs and addressed to Brother Van Zee he does not dispute this conclusion; rather he intimates clearly that he had the General and Executive Committees for Home Missions in mind. (Exhibit C)

5. The Classical Committee of Classis Minnesota North having corresponded with Rev. Van Zee re his activities, sent copy of these communications and Brother Van Zee forwarded copy of his reply thereto to our Committee. (Exhibit D) Clearly the Classical Committee of Classis Minnesota North assumed that the Synodical Committee for Home Missions was under fire, and Mr. Van Zee did not deny this assumption.

6. The Classical Home Missions Committee of Classis Minnesota North in its correspondence with our Committee is of the mind that Rev. Van Zee is dissatisfied with the mission policy of the Synodical Committee for Home Missions. (Exhibit E)

In the light of the foregoing we are persuaded that the derogations of Brother Van Zee concern the General and Executive Committee for Home Missions.

B. WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF THESE DEROGATIONS?

1. The Synodical Committee for Home Missions is said to have accorded a brother minister in Christ discourteous treatment. Writes Rev. Van Zee, "When I first presented Alaska to one division of missions (we have TWO TURRETS) I was treated like a little boy in a space-suit asking the banker for a million dollars to drill an oil-well on the moon." (Exhibit A)

2. The Committee is charged with manipulations. With what results?

a. "The Board" is characterized "as an exalted apex above the church and the missionary." (Exhibit A)

b. "Our system does not promote consecrated seeking for new fields, intelligent prayer, or sacrificial giving." (Exhibit A)

c. Our system "requires an arbitrary calling church, cold cash, and a missionary out to pattern." (Exhibit A)

d. "The calling church can 'voice' expression through a kind of 'veto' power regarding the nomination descended to them—they can extend the call to the candidate least likely to accept in the hope of a new deal, another chance." (Exhibit A)

3. The Committee is charged with resorting to pressure methods. "The consistory of Bethel Edgerton bowed to the pressure of the exec. comm. to call from a nomination about which they had nothing to say." (Exhibit F-1)

4. The Committee is charged with serious mistakes. "All the pitfalls of Minneapolis, Willmar and Albuquerque yawn at us in Alaska, but if we repeat the mistakes the harmful results may be intensified." (Exhibit B, Page 1)

5. The Committee is charged with promoting reprehensible insincerity in the matter of calling a missionary. "The calling church can 'voice' expression through a kind of 'veto' power regarding the nomination descended to them—they can extend the call to the candidate least likely to accept in the hope of a new deal, another chance." (Exhibit A, Page 2)

"They called the one they thought would not accept, hoping to have something to say about the next nomination." (Exhibit F-1, IV, and Exhibit F-2)

6. In connection with our servicemen's work, the Committee by implication is charged with promoting a program of entertainment. Writes Rev. Van Zee, "Since when has it become the mandate of the Church to go into the ENTERTAINING BUSINESS? The boys in Alaska are not interested that the Church spend time and money for their entertainment—we need not compete with the Government and the Y.M.C.A." (Exhibit B, Page 2)

These several charges culled from the correspondence of Mr. Van Zee are of serious import. The General Committee for Home Missions and its Executive Committee being synodically appointed, is authorized to activate the synodically approved Home Missions program. In the discharge of its mandate this Committee is accountable to Synod; hence, we request Synod to pass judgment upon the charges made against its Committee for Home Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Executive Committee for Home Missions*

H. BLYSTRA, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 22**

(Art. 57)

**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN :**

Your Publication Committee desires in this report to present in summary its activities of the past year and to call the attention of Synod to such matters as require synodical action.

The Committee was able to meet regularly and as the demands of the work required. Dr. H. H. Meeter functioned as President and the undersigned as Secretary. Mr. Herman Fles, appointed by the Synod of 1952 to membership in our committee, found it necessary to decline his appointment. The committee, therefore, appointed Mr. Adrian Vanden Bout to serve in his place and we trust this appointment will meet with the approval of Synod. The appointments of Professor Louis Berkhof, Mr. Fred Van Kleef, and the Reverend Clarence Boomsma end this year. The first two cannot be reappointed according to synodical ruling because they have served on our committee for six or more years. We present nominations for these vacancies below.

The publishing house functioned ably throughout the past year. Although the quarters are cramped and the schedule is tight, the printing plant successfully published what was required of them. Two of our writers, the Reverend Gerrit Vander Riet and Mr. Gerhardus Vos, passed away and new writers had to be found to replace them. The committee felt that the editor of *THE BANNER* deserved a complete vacation this year instead of one in which he continued to bear a good part of his work, and so arrangements were made to have guest editorial writers for four weeks. The Revs. Henry Baker, Peter Van Tuinen, Adam Persenaire, and Peter H. Eldersveld kindly consented to write these editorials. As decided by Synod, one issue of the church papers was devoted to the Calvin College Expansion Drive. In the place of the department "Principles of Mission" in *THE BANNER*, formerly written by the late Dr. J. C. De Korne, the committee decided to give the Back to God Hour this space in order to keep our people better informed regarding this denominational project.

Naturally the committee is called upon to make various decisions of policy during the year. We would call Synod's attention to three such decisions. It was decided to eliminate the classical treasurers' reports from the Yearbook. These reports take up a good deal of space in the Yearbook and in the mind of the committee serve very little purpose. Classical treasurers give annual reports to their respective classes so each congregation can check its contributions. Moreover, the statistics do not give a good picture of the giving of our people

since some congregations give directly to causes instead of giving through the classical treasurer, and as a matter of fact, many are contributing to other individual, though worthy, causes which are not reported in the Yearbook. The committee wishes to say, however, that it has received a few protests to this action and thus we call our decision to the attention of Synod. The Publication Committee also decided to devise a new advertising policy. Increasingly we have worked in the direction of eliminating secular and local advertisements from the pages of our Church papers. This is not as simple as it might seem, because our Church papers also function in a measure as a means of communication for our Christian Reformed community. Yet the committee feels that the dignity of our Church organs should not be detracted by purely secular materials. As it now stands, the committee has decided to eliminate all display advertisements that are purely of local interest and secular character. The third matter that called for action was the use of our mailing list by various synodically approved causes to make financial appeal to our readers. The committee has decided to work in the direction of eliminating the use of our lists for such purpose.

Efforts are being put forth to increase the number of readers of our Church papers in Canada among the immigrants. We feel that our publications can play a significant role in integrating these new members into the life of our denomination. Our committee solicits the support of the ministers of Canada to help us encourage the use of *THE BANNER* and *DE WACHTER*.

Under the leadership of the Reverend John H. Schaal and the Reverend Richard De Ridder our Sunday School materials have been published regularly. Two members of our committee and the two editors of our Sunday School materials were consulted by the Committee on Education regarding our Sunday School publications. Our committee concurs in the report of the Committee on Education regarding the publication of Sunday School materials. In the light of the proposed changes, decided by last year's Synod, we recommend that our present editors be retained until such time as the present two sets of Sunday School papers are merged. We further advise that Synod appoint an editor-in-chief for the new series.

Our committee has been working on the problem of expansion and will have a supplementary report for Synod presenting our recommendations and plans.

The financial situation of our establishment is good. The office employees were given a raise in keeping with the increase that the shop employees had received earlier. The committee was able to put \$10,000.00 of our cash balance in the Depreciation Reserve Fund and another \$10,000.00 in the Building Expansion Fund.

Synod should take action on the following matters:

1. *The appointment of committee members.*

We request Synod to approve the appointment of Mr. Adrian Vanden Bout to fill out the term of Mr. Herman Fles.

We present the following nominations for committee members to serve for three years:

a) In the place of Professor Berkhof: The Revs. John Mulder and Thomas Yff.

b) In the place of Mr. Fred Van Kleef: Mr. John Petersen and Mr. Raymond Van Kuiken.

c) For the place of the Reverend Boomsma: The Revs. C. Oliver Buus and Clarence Boomsma.

2. *The appointment of the Editor of the Sunday School papers.*

We recommend that Synod ask our present editors, the Revs. John Schaal and Richard De Ridder to continue until such time as the new series begins.

Synod must appoint an editor-in-chief to edit the new publications.

The committee has appointed the Secretary to be its representative at Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE BOOMSMA, *Secretary*

**FINANCIAL REPORT — JAN. 1, 1952 TO JAN. 1, 1953**

INCOME:

Banner Subscriptions and Advertising.....	\$144,288.32
Wachter Subscriptions and Advertising.....	15,048.23
Sunday School Papers .....	62,652.31
Psalter Hymnals .....	21,485.52
Yearbooks .....	6,926.00
Sermon Books, Acts, Agenda, etc.....	18,991.39
Tracts, Interest and Miscellaneous.....	6,496.21

\$275,887.98

PAID OUT:

Shop and Office Wages.....	\$ 82,741.46
Employees' Pension Expense .....	2,714.81
Paper and Supplies .....	58,319.78
Ink, Engravings, Rollers, etc.....	13,819.66
Second Class Postage, Depreciation, Taxes.....	16,988.24
Editors' Remunerations .....	20,179.20
Office Expenses, Insurance, Agents' Comm.....	13,950.30
Cost of Yearbook .....	4,251.59
Cost of Sermon Books, Agenda, Acts.....	12,771.62
Cost of Psalter Hymnals.....	14,038.29

\$239,774.95

Profit .....

\$ 36,113.03

A brief analysis of the Profit and Loss

Accounts show that:

The Banner Profit is.....	\$ 19,881.02
Sunday School Profit is.....	9,043.07
Psalter Hymnals, Yearbook, and Misc.....	15,322.75
	<hr/>
	\$ 44,246.84
De Wachter Loss .....	8,133.81
	<hr/>
Balance .....	\$ 36,113.03

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS:**

Cash in Bank and on Hand.....	\$ 8,922.72
Accounts Receivable .....	10,155.09
Inventory, Paper and Supplies.....	36,487.90
Bank Stock .....	262.00
Replacement Fund (U. S. Bonds).....	80,000.00
Building Expansion Fund (U. S. Bonds).....	50,000.00
Present Building and Machines.....	78,626.56

\$264,524.27

**LIABILITIES:**

Accrued Withholding Tax and Hospital Insurance Payments .....	\$ 1,089.35
Equities	
Investment Jan. 1, 1952.....	227,321.89
Profit 1952 .....	36,113.03

Total ..... \$264,524.27

**PUBLICATIONS PRINTED**

	1951	1952
The Banner, weekly .....	35,800	37,000
De Wachter, weekly .....	6,300	6,450
The Instructor, weekly .....	30,700	32,000
Children's-Comrade, weekly .....	17,800	18,750
The Key, semi-quarterly .....	6,300	6,300
The Good News, weekly .....	4,500	4,800
The Little Good News, weekly .....	3,500	3,900
Yearbook, annually .....	10,000	10,000

Respectfully submitted,

G. I. BUIST  
Secretary of Business Committee of Publication Committee



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 23**

(Arts. 82, 96)

**THE CHURCH HELP COMMITTEE INCORPORATED****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

The Committee for Church Help is happy to report on another busy year, the year 1952. It was a pleasure to grant aid from the funds entrusted to our care to so many Churches in both the U.S.A. and Canada, although they asked for much more than we could grant.

Nine Churches failed to make repayment on their loans, and three failed to make payments on the quota for this Fund. We have written these Churches in accordance with the Synodical ruling.

Due to an oversight, the Synod of 1952 made no provision for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund, with the result that classis Ontario in its meeting of Sept. 17, 1952 because of their dire need appealed to the Synodical Committee to reactivate the Canadian Emergency Building Fund. The Synodical Committee realizing the urgency of their plea requested and authorized the Church Help Committee to make a special appeal to all our Churches. We are very grateful to all who have acknowledged our plea, so that to date we have received \$107,332.29.

Even with this help it was impossible to meet the needs of Canada and rather than disappoint them, your committee decided to honor their requests as much as possible by loaning them 50% from the Canadian Emergency Building Fund and 50% from the Church Help Fund with their respective stipulations. This solution was thankfully received by the Canadian Churches. In order that no injustice be done the committee decided to continue this policy in the future.

Desiring to eliminate special drives in the future your committee suggests that the needed funds be raised by a stipulated quota. Based upon past experiences we estimate our need to be \$9.00 per family for both funds.

The committee would like to repeat its request of 1951 in regard to the term of office of our treasurer Mr. Charles R. Mulder. See Agenda 1951 Page 73 and Acts of Synod 1951 Page 66, where we read:

"The Committee requests that the term of Mr. Charles R. Mulder, Treasurer of the Committee, be extended beyond the limit established by the Synod of 1950 because it will be almost impossible to replace him under the rules governing the Committee. Synod grant this request and make an exception on the basis of the arguments given by the committee . . . Adopted".

An added reason for this request is the recent rapid turnover of the personnel of this committee, which would leave only one member in

the committee with more than one year experience. It should be considered that the full strength of the Committee is only five men and that it is responsible for the care of more than a million dollars.

The term of Rev. J. Cupido also expires according to the Synodical rule of the tenure of office. Synod is to appoint a new man in his place. Nominations will be sent in before June 1 as Synod 1952 directed.

Our treasurer, Mr. Chas. R. Mulder, is bonded for \$20,000.00 by the American Surety Company of New York, through the Des Moines, Iowa office (Acts 1948).

We herewith present our financial reports of both the *Church Help Fund* and the *Canadian Emergency Building Fund*.

**I. THE CHURCH HELP FUND**

**Bank Reconciliation**

Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, Iowa  
Year 1952

	Schedule "A"
Bank Balance as per Statement, January 31, 1952.....	\$ 37,724.36
1951 Deposits Late .....	2,100.00
Total .....	\$ 39,824.36
Less: Checks Outstanding .....	19,039.42
Our Ledger Balance .....	\$ 20,784.94
1952 Receipts .....	151,444.73
Total .....	\$172,229.67
Less: 1952 Disbursements .....	133,534.71
On Hand .....	\$ 38,694.96
Cash .....	\$38,694.96
Bank Balance as per Statement.....	\$107,579.81
Deposits Late .....	4,577.25
Total .....	\$112,157.06
Less: Checks Outstanding .....	73,462.10
Balance .....	\$ 38,694.96
Cash .....	\$38,694.96

Schedule "B"

**Analysis — Loans Outstanding  
Year 1952**

	OUTSTANDING JAN. 1, 1952	NEW LOANS	PAYMENTS	OUTSTANDING DEC. 31, 1952
CHURCH AT				
Abbotsford, B C., Can. ....		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Ackley, Iowa .....	\$ 750.00		\$ 200.00	550.00
Alameda, California .....		8,000.00		8,000.00
Alamosa, Colorado .....	7,000.00		350.00	6,650.00

Arcadia, California .....	5,115.00	345.00	4,770.00
Auburn Park, Illinois ....	6,000.00	375.00	5,625.00
Bauer, Michigan .....	4,250.00	2,250.00	2,000.00
Battle Creek, Mich. ....	8,750.00	500.00	8,250.00
Bejou, Minnesota .....	2,050.00		2,050.00
Bellflower 2nd, Calif. ....	3,900.00	300.00	3,600.00
Bellflower 3rd, Calif. ....	5,000.00		5,000.00
Bellwood, Illinois .....	10,000.00	500.00	9,500.00
Bemis, South Dakota ....	6,800.00	400.00	6,400.00
Boston Square, Grand Rapids, Mich. ....	5,625.00	375.00	5,250.00
Bozeman, Montana .....	6,000.00	400.00	5,600.00
Brampton, Ont., Can. ....		8,000.00	8,000.00
Cadillac, Mich. ....	8,500.00	500.00	8,000.00
Cascade, Mich. ....		5,000.00	5,000.00
Chandler, Minnesota .....		3,000.00	3,000.00
Chatham, Ont., Can. ....	22,125.00	250.00	21,875.00
Cincinnati, Ohio .....	7,200.00	400.00	6,800.00
Clara City, Minn. ....	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
Cobden-Pembroke, Ont. ..		5,000.00	5,000.00
Compton, California .....	5,200.00	5,200.00	
Conrad, Montana .....		5,000.00	5,000.00
Crookston, Minn. ....	2,507.90	125.00	2,382.90
Dearborn, Mich. ....	11,400.00	650.00	10,750.00
Decatur, Mich. ....	2,326.77	202.73	2,124.04
Delavan, Wisconsin .....	7,000.00	350.00	6,650.00
Denver 2nd, Colorado.....	2,875.00	375.00	2,500.00
Des Plaines, Illinois .....	7,125.00	375.00	6,750.00
Dorr, Michigan .....	4,175.00	1,662.50	2,512.50
Dresden, Ont., Can. ....		5,000.00	5,000.00
East Palmyra, New York ..	3,500.00	175.00	3,325.00
Edmonton 1st, Alta. ....	7,500.00	525.00	6,975.00
Escalon, California .....	9,125.00	500.00	8,625.00
Everson, Washington .....	7,216.92	500.00	6,716.92
Flint, Michigan .....	2,725.00	175.00	2,550.00
Goshen, New York .....	9,500.00	500.00	9,000.00
Grand Rapids, Highland Hills .....	7,125.00	375.00	6,750.00
Grand Rapids, Immanuel	4,250.00	250.00	4,000.00
Grand Rapids, Plymouth Heights .....		7,500.00	7,500.00
Granum, Alta., Can. ....	2,500.00	125.00	2,375.00
Hamilton, Mich. ....	8,000.00	400.00	7,600.00
Hartley, Iowa .....	5,000.00		5,000.00
Hawarden, Iowa .....	5,100.00	300.00	4,800.00
Hoboken, N. J. ....	1,250.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
Holland Bethany, Mich. ..	6,000.00	375.00	5,625.00
Holland, Holland Heights, Michigan .....	7,500.00	375.00	7,125.00
Holland Marsh, Ontario, Canada .....	3,600.00	200.00	3,400.00
Holland, Minnesota .....	2,850.00	150.00	2,700.00
Houston, B. C., Can. ....	4,250.00	250.00	4,000.00
Iowa Falls, Iowa .....	6,375.00	600.00	5,775.00
Kingston, Ont., Can. ....		5,000.00	5,000.00

Analysis — Loans Outstanding  
Year 1952

CHURCH AT	OUTSTANDING JAN. 1, 1952	NEW LOANS	PAYMENTS	OUTSTANDING DEC. 31, 1952
Lacombe, Alta., Can. ....	11,700.00		800.00	10,900.00
Langley Prairie, B. C., Canada .....		7,000.00		7,000.00
Lansing Oak Glen, Ill. ....		10,000.00		10,000.00
Lansing, Michigan .....	\$ 4,125.00		\$ 375.00	\$ 3,750.00
Lethbridge, Alta, Can. ....		\$ 8,000.00		8,000.00
Lodi, New Jersey .....	2,375.00		125.00	2,250.00
Luverne, Minnesota .....		10,000.00		10,000.00
Milwaukee, Wisconsin ....	3,000.00	4,000.00	250.00	6,750.00
Mt. Vernon, Wash. ....	700.00		700.00	
Minneapolis, Minn. ....	5,950.00			5,950.00
Modesto, California .....	5,700.00		300.00	5,400.00
Monroe, Washington .....	9,000.00			9,000.00
Morrison, Illinois .....	4,750.00		250.00	4,500.00
Neerlandia, Alta., Can. ..	9,612.50		512.50	9,100.00
Newton, Iowa .....	2,804.00		400.00	2,404.00
Newton, New Jersey .....	11,125.00		625.00	10,500.00
Nobleford, Alta., Can. ....	6,000.00		1,000.00	5,000.00
Oak Lawn, Illinois .....	4,500.00		250.00	4,250.00
Ogilvie, Minnesota .....	4,050.00	1,000.00	250.00	4,800.00
Oskaloosa Bethel, Iowa....	5,700.00		300.00	5,400.00
Owen Sound, Ont., Can. ....		3,000.00		3,000.00
Parchment, Mich. ....	950.00		150.00	800.00
Phoenix, Arizona .....	10,200.00			10,200.00
Pine Creek, Mich. ....	6,000.00		300.00	5,700.00
Pipestone, Minn. ....	716.00		190.00	526.00
Pitt Meadows, B.C., Can. ....		9,000.00		9,000.00
Plainfield, Michigan .....	3,150.00		450.00	2,700.00
Randolph 2nd, Wis. ....	7,125.00		375.00	6,750.00
Raymond, Minnesota .....	5,745.00		375.00	5,370.00
Redlands 1st, Calif. ....	4,750.00		250.00	4,500.00
Redlands 2nd, Calif. ....	4,500.00	3,500.00	250.00	7,750.00
Ridgewood, N. J. ....	8,500.00		500.00	8,000.00
Ripon Immanuel, Calif. ...	9,500.00		625.00	8,875.00
Rock Rapids, Iowa .....	5,350.00		1,000.00	4,350.00
Rock Valley Calvin, Ia....	10,000.00		500.00	9,500.00
Saginaw, Michigan .....	15,900.00		500.00	15,400.00
San Diego, California ....	8,850.00		550.00	8,300.00
Sarnia, Ont., Can. ....	17,800.00			17,800.00
Seattle, Washington .....	7,200.00		400.00	6,800.00
Sibley, Iowa .....	1,163.36		621.61	541.75
Sioux City, Iowa .....	1,060.00		310.00	750.00
Sioux Falls, S. D. ....	9,000.00		500.00	8,500.00
Sussex, New Jersey .....	3,000.00		150.00	2,850.00
Strathroy, Ont., Can. ....		3,000.00		3,000.00
Terra Ceia, N. C. ....	5,800.00		350.00	5,450.00
Tracy, Iowa .....	1,646.10		300.00	1,346.10
Tyler, Minnesota .....	900.00			900.00
Taber, Alta., Can. ....		2,750.00		2,750.00
Vancouver, B. C., Can....	14,498.00		875.00	13,623.00

Wallaceburg, Ont., Can....	3,000.00		3,000.00
Washington, D. C. ....	2,650.00	200.00	2,450.00
Wellandport, Ont., Can. ..	5,000.00		5,000.00
Wheaton, Illinois .....	10,000.00	500.00	9,500.00
Winnipeg, Man., Can. ....	3,000.00	150.00	2,850.00
Wyckoff Calvin, N. J.....	8,500.00	500.00	8,000.00
Zeeland Bethel, Mich. ....	10,000.00	500.00	9,500.00
Total .....	\$547,586.55	\$132,250.00	\$ 39,619.34
			\$640,217.21

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have examined the books and records of the Church Help Fund of the Christian Reformed Church and that the attached is a true statement of the receipts and disbursements for the year ended December 31, 1952, insofar as disclosed by the records.

Respectfully submitted,

CORA M. HILGER  
Public Accountant

Denominational Quotas By Classes and Other Receipts  
Year 1952

Classes	1951	1952
Alberta .....		\$ 1,658.34
California .....	\$ 3,174.33	4,385.13
Chicago North .....	4,461.20	6,402.86
Chicago South .....	5,090.02	7,197.66
Grand Rapids East .....	6,554.55	9,255.75
Grand Rapids South .....	7,525.02	10,416.00
Grand Rapids West .....	4,187.26	5,739.00
Hackensack .....	2,048.64	2,748.45
Holland .....	5,668.27	7,755.00
Hudson .....	4,080.28	5,404.00
Kalamazoo .....	3,291.47	4,467.00
Minnesota .....	3,682.17	5,097.81
Muskegon .....	5,771.25	7,755.44
Ontario .....	763.28	2,837.58
Orange City .....	2,635.80	3,581.25
Ostfriesland .....	1,705.50	2,268.00
Pacific .....	4,929.19	5,025.71
Pella .....	3,989.67	5,390.69
Sioux Center .....	3,584.45	4,717.91
Wisconsin .....	2,391.81	3,156.00
Zeeland .....	4,716.00	6,475.94
Miscellaneous .....		89.87
Total .....	\$80,245.16	\$111,825.39

The Church Help Fund  
Summary

Balance on Hand January 1, 1952.....		\$ 20,784.94
Total Receipts:		
Repayments "B" .....	\$39,619.34	
Disc. to Compton, California.....	200.00	\$39,419.34
Quotas "C" .....		111,825.39

Canadian Emergency Building Fund, sent to us in error.....	200.00	151,444.73
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>\$172,229.67</b>
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>		
New Loans .....	\$132,250.00	
Check to Canadian Emergency Building Fund....	200.00	
Administrative Expenses .....	1,084.71	133,534.71
		<b>\$ 38,694.96</b>
Cash .....	\$38,694.96	

## II. THE CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUILDING FUND

From March 6, 1952 to March 6, 1953

On Hand March 6, 1952.....	\$ 98,133.14
Total Receipts .....	107,332.29
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$205,465.43</b>

### Disbursements

New Loans .....	\$171,250.00
Sent to us in error and returned to:	
Oskaloosa Bethel, Iowa CRC .....	\$385.50
Gen. Home Missions Comm. ....	63.57      449.07
Bank and Telephone Expenses .....	5.27
	<b>\$171,704.34</b>
On Hand March 6, 1953.....	33,761.09
	<b>\$205,465.43</b>

## CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUILDING FUND ANALYSIS — LOANS OUTSTANDING

As of March 6th, 1953

CHURCH	CHECK	REPAY\$	AMOUNT
Picton, Ont., Canada .....	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,500.00
Hamilton, Ont., Canada .....	10,000.00	\$200.00	7,300.00
Iron Springs, Alta. ....	15,000.00		11,250.00
Granum, Alta. ....	10,000.00		7,500.00
Jarvis, Ont. ....	16,000.00		12,000.00
St. Catharines, Ont. ....	10,000.00		7,500.00
Aylmer, Ont. ....	10,000.00	500.00	7,000.00
Essex, Ont. ....	5,500.00		4,125.00
Trenton, Ont. ....	16,000.00		12,000.00
Toronto, Ont. ....	12,000.00		9,000.00
Holland Marsh, Ont. ....	7,700.00		5,775.00
Brockville, Bethel, Ont. ....	10,000.00		7,500.00
Rocky Mt. House, Alta. ....	10,000.00		7,500.00
Peers, Alta. ....	10,000.00		7,500.00
Woodstock, Ont. ....	16,000.00		12,000.00
Bowmanville, Ont. ....	12,000.00		9,000.00
Owen Sound, Ont. ....	13,000.00		9,750.00
Second Edmonton, Alta. ....	16,000.00		12,000.00
Winona, Ont. ....	13,500.00		10,125.00
Strathroy, Ont. ....	13,000.00		9,750.00
Ladner, B. C. ....	8,000.00		6,000.00

Drayton, Ont. ....	16,000.00	12,000.00
Red Deer, Alta., Can. ....	10,000.00	7,500.00
Barrhead, Alta., Can. ....	6,000.00	4,500.00
Westlock, Alta., Can. ....	6,000.00	4,500.00
Abbotsford, B. C., Can. ....	9,000.00	6,750.00
Third Edmonton, Alta., Can. ....	16,000.00	12,000.00
Wyoming, Ont., Can. ....	6,000.00	4,500.00
Winnipeg, Man., Can. ....	10,000.00	7,500.00
Taber, Alta., Can. ....	12,750.00	9,562.50
Brooks (Duchess), Alta., Can. ....	3,000.00	2,250.00
Clinton, Ont., Can. ....	4,500.00	3,375.00
London, Ont., Can. ....	8,000.00	6,000.00
Cochrane, Ont., Can. ....	7,500.00	5,625.00
Telkwa-Smithers, B. C., Can. ....	6,000.00	4,500.00
Second Sarnia, Ont., Can. ....	8,000.00	6,000.00
Calgary, Alta., Can. ....	16,000.00	12,000.00
Wellandport, Ont., Can. ....	5,000.00	3,750.00
Cobden-Pembroke, Ont., Can. ....	5,000.00	3,750.00
Dresden, Ont., Can. ....	5,000.00	3,750.00
Brampton, Ont., Can. ....	8,000.00	6,000.00
Wallaceburg, Ont., Can. ....	3,000.00	2,250.00
Kingston, Ont., Can. ....	5,000.00	3,750.00
Lethbridge, Alta., Can. ....	8,000.00	6,000.00
	\$419,450.00	\$700.00
		\$313,887.50

First column represents the amounts received. The last column the amounts to be repaid.

Respectfully submitted,

The Church Help Committee, Inc.

Rev. David D. Bonnema, President

Rev. J. Cupido, Secretary

Mr. Chas. R. Mulder, Treasurer

Rev. A. Baker

Mr. Sam Elgersma

P. S.: A detailed report of all receipts for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund will be available for Synod's perusal.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 24**  
(Arts. 96, 157)

**THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:**

Your Committee herewith presents the annual accounting of its administration of the affairs of Canadian Immigration in behalf of our Churches:

**I PERSONNEL.**

The Committee is presently constituted as follows:

Rev. P. J. Hoekstra	Calgary, Alta.	President
Mr. J. VanderVliet	Trenton, Ont.	Secretary-Treasurer
Rev. A. Disselkoe	Winnipeg, Man.	
Mr. J. VanderVelden	Vancouver, B. C.	
Rev. J. M. VandeKieft	Grand Rapids	Missionary-at-Large

The following appointees of Synod are serving as full-time fieldmen:  
for Ontario:

Mr. J. Vellinga	Chatham, Ont.
Mr. C. Steenhof	Toronto, Ont.
Mr. L. VandenBerg	Brockville, Ont.

for Alberta:

Mr. B. Nieboer	Iron Springs, Alta.
Mr. H. A. Wierenga	Edmonton, Alta.

and as part-time fieldmen:

Mr. R. Jongbloed	Hamilton, Ont.
Mr. J. Prins	Beverly, Alta.
Mr. A. de Jong	New-Westminster, B. C.
Mr. J. VanderVliet	Trenton, Ont.

In the place of Mr. J. de Jong of Winnipeg, who left our service during the previous year, was assigned tentatively, subject to appointment by Synod, Mr. Tom Polet, for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan area.

In the opening up of the Maritimes field, Mr. H. J. Lam was engaged on a temporary basis. Besides securing sponsors he also meets the boats at the docks, welcomes and helps the immigrants upon arrival and distributes our literature with the able assistance of his wife.

**II SURVEY OF THE WORK DONE IN 1952.**

The work has again been prospered and blessed by the Lord as is evident from the following. At the end of the year 1951 there were in Canada 71 organized Christian Reformed congregations and 24 mission stations. Now we have 92 organized Churches and 27 mission stations, a gain of 21 Churches and 3 mission stations.

The number of placements by our fieldmen during the year 1952 was approximately 1800 families and 800 single men and women. The placement of tradesmen continues to increase as also the number of relative cases. New places opened up in previously unoccupied areas during the past year were: the Peace River district in Northern Al-



berta, Regina in Saskatchewan, Sault Ste. Marie and Ottawa in Ontario, Montreal in Quebec and the Maritime provinces.

Immigrant Reception Centers for temporary occupancy by incoming immigrants are operating satisfactorily and largely on a self-sustaining basis.

### III PROSPECTS FOR 1953.

The general flow of immigrants is expected to continue in the same measure as last year with an approximate total of 20,000. The special emergency immigration resulting from the flood disaster in the Netherlands however is expected to bring a large increase over the normal flow. According to the Toronto Star of Feb. 24, from its staff correspondent in Amsterdam, Canadian officials are quoted as having stated that 40,000 Dutch people will emigrate to Canada this year. This means that our fieldmen will have to put forth special efforts to find employment and housing. Our Committee, in conference with Mr. C. E. S. Smith, Commissioner for Immigration, has pledged to provide this for additional numbers of immigrants from the flood stricken areas.

In connection with the increasing industrial development of Canada the demand for Dutch labor continues. Early this spring some 60 large families, whose sponsorship was a direct result of a procurement visit to the Netherlands of fieldmen B. Nieboer, are expected for the beet district of Alberta. A schedule of 4 boats per month is anticipated from March to August and several in the fall, with additional arrivals by air.

### IV APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee, in the nature of the case, is constrained to take note of the matter presented in the form of an overture by a consistory of classis Ontario East with a view to having it submitted to Synod also. It pertains to the status proper of this Committee, its composition and functioning, and its reorganization with a view to bringing it closer within the ecclesiastical orb and channels of classes and consistories.

Having studied this matter in the light of the appointment and organization of this Committee in 1946; its functioning as an agency directly responsible to Synod, since that time; and in the light of the proposed reorganization, we submit the following appraisal, endeavoring to keep it objective, having only the welfare of the cause and the promotion of the work at heart.

1. In its original composition your Committee considered itself a sub committee of the Home Missions Committee, although Synod had not defined its status as such. When, after the organizational meeting,

held at Winnipeg, it reported to the Home Missions Committee and requested funds to operate, it was informed that the Home Missions Committee had no financial responsibility. With the endorsement of the Synodical Committee, we therefore negotiated a loan from the Synodical treasurer. At the next Synod we were definitely given the status of a denominational committee, and the Canadian Immigration Fund was established.

With respect to the constituency of the Committee's membership the first nominations were made by the delegates of the 3 Classes having the immigration in their district. This was changed in 1948 by Synod. Nominations were to be made by the local leagues or councils for immigration from which Synod made the appointments. Later, as the movement grew, the Leagues in Alberta and Ontario sought enlargement of the Committee membership from their areas. When Alberta League sought to gain additional members, Ontario immediately did likewise. Synod thereupon took the following action. See page 71 Acts of Synod 1949 which reads as follows: "Your Committee advises Synod not to appoint a new member for Winnipeg to replace the late Mr. J. J. Wyenberg, nor to appoint an additional member to the Canadian Immigration Committee for the Province of Ontario, but rather to reconstitute the Committee with one member from each of the four provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, and the Missionary-at-Large. In naming this Committee the Committee of Appointments shall consider that fieldmen employed by the Canadian Immigration Committee shall not themselves be members of that Committee. In the future, nominations for members of the Committee submitted by the respective Leagues or Locals shall likewise endeavor to observe this rule.

*Grounds:*

- a. A smaller Committee can function more efficiently when the Committee only meets annually or semi-annually and considerable of its business must needs be carried on by correspondence;
- b. The various Locals and Leagues serve to implement the work of the General Synodical Committee;
- c. The mounting costs of our Canadian Immigration work call for strict economy, and savings wherever possible;
- d. The fieldmen, as employees of the Canadian Immigration Committee, should not normally exercise supervision and control over their own work. Exceptions to this rule may be valid in case of part-time fieldman. *Adopted.* (End of quotation.)

In the light of the above historical data it is understandable that your Committee was in a quandary when it read in the Acts of Synod of 1952 (page 113): "Two new members will be proposed by the On-

tario Immigration Council" without any further explanation or reference. On the face of it, it was clearly in non-conformity with the decision of the Synod quoted above. Neither has our Committee received any further elucidation or instructions concerning this matter.

### 2. *Relationship to various bodies*

Your Committee finds it expedient to have good relations with the Immigration authorities, governments, and transportation systems as well as with the Immigration Leagues and Councils. We have frequently met with the officials in the Capital and in the provinces. We received free transportation on passes for Committee members and fieldmen. Representatives of the Committee were given free transportation by the Holland-America Line for a trip to the Netherlands to contact the various authorities and agencies there in the interest of the work. For the profit of the work these relationships must be properly maintained.

### 3. *Operational agents.*

Fieldmen are necessary for procurement of placements and the settlement of immigrants after arrival. A just analysis and due appreciation of their work should consider the special problems and difficulties encountered in this work. When, for instance, immigrants are expected in March but do not arrive until August, when they are no longer desired by their sponsors, who were clamoring for them in the spring; when large numbers of immigrants require placement at short notice; when families arrive at our ports of entry without sponsors, or with open visa, we will realize how valuable their services are. Our Committee has an enviable record with Canadian officials of placing all those for whom we are responsible.

It should also be remembered that possibilities for placements are poor in districts where economic conditions for permanent settlement of immigrants are few. In such districts there is a constant turnover of incoming and outgoing immigrants. These in general are the problems our fieldmen are dealing with.

Our fieldmen strive to maintain cooperative contacts with the local Leagues and also with the home-missionaries and ministers in their fields in order to promote immigration as a Church extension as well as a resettlement movement. The fieldmen as a rule are active in local Churches and mission stations as elders and leaders. Thus they live at the very heart of the movement. They cannot keep abreast with all the work and the ideal would be to have one fieldman for every home-missionary or minister. Hence part-time fieldmen have been engaged in every district.

Supervision of the fieldmen is exercised by the Committee members in each district, by monthly reports, by conferences at the meetings of the Committee and by close contacts.

In view of the mounting deficit the Committee last November reluctantly took action to discontinue paying for the part-time fieldmen, with a few exceptions. It was hoped that the local Leagues could find ways and means to continue this support. This was done in some instances.

Taking note of the fruits the Lord has given in Canada on the labours of the Church, the question might be asked: What if the Synod had not appointed a Committee to direct and organize this work? What, if Synod had not followed up with Home-Missionaries? What, if the classes had not interested themselves? We dare say there would have been a great dispersion and fewer Christian Reformed Churches in Canada.

After the first World War the immigration work was almost entirely left to local initiative and consequently the results were very meager. Many good families were lost to the Church. With this in mind our Church interested itself in the Canadian work even before the influx of immigrants into Canada started, and through your Committee obtained a prominent position in the Canadian Immigration scheme. The work was largely directed by the Committee of Synod, so that, as the work progressed, officials in the capital and of other Churches came to us for help and advice. The Reformed, Catholic, Canadian Reformed, Old Reformed and Old Christian Reformed Churches have all imitated our organization and followed our example.

#### 4. *The question of Reorganization of the Committee*

a. Shall this be done simply by adding a few members for larger representation? The reasons Synod gave in 1949 are still cogent.

b. This touches the matter of principle in regard to the work of the Church as institute and as organism. We do not consider the present organization a violation of the principle but an adaptation of the principle in a practical situation. As the Committee is constituted at present the Church as an organism makes the nomination and the Church as an institute makes the appointments. We would suggest that the Church as institute, through the classes also makes the nominations, from which the Synod appoints.

c. Synodical supervision with classical cooperation. The Committee considers it inadvisable to enlarge the Committee with many members, but in order to draw the Church closer to the work, and to make the work more effective, we suggest that the Committee be proportionally enlarged, giving the three classes in Ontario each a member on the Committee. The Classes in the West shall also have one each, plus one from the States, making 7 in all. We would advise that the constituency of the Committee be 3 laymen and 3 ministers, plus the member from the States.

With respect to the ruling of Synod concerning the tenure of office we have taken no action in view of the suggested basic reorganization along the lines of classical nominations upon which action will be taken by Synod.

The ruling of Synod concerning tenure would mean that there would be a complete change in the Committee excepting Mr. J. VanderVelden of Vancouver. Such a drastic change, we are convinced, would be detrimental to the cause of immigration. In view of the proposed reorganization of the Committee we have deemed it advisable to await Synod's action in this matter.

#### V. FINANCES:

Due to the expansion of the work and enlarged expenses your Committee was in great financial distress at the end of the year, operating in the red and unable to meet its obligations, but we are very thankful that during the last few weeks of 1952 our funds were strengthened again. With the new quota we hope to stay out of debt and expect to operate within the quota granted us by Synod.

The Budget for 1954 has been presented to the Budget Committee. The total amounts of receipts and expenses are expected to be respectively \$69,000.00 and \$67,300.00.

#### VI RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION:

1. That all full-time fieldmen be reappointed.
2. That Mr. T. Polet be appointed full-time fieldman for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
3. That the quota of \$1.70 per family be continued in 1954.
4. That the suggestions made by your Committee be given serious consideration.

Summarized they are:

- a. That the Committee be reorganized in such a way that the classes become the nominating bodies.
- b. That each of the Classes has equal representation in the nomination.
- c. That there shall be an equal number of ministers and laymen on the Committee, plus one from the United States, and 7 in all.
5. That Synod take due note and make proper acknowledgment of their letter of thanks to the General Synod of the "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland".

#### *Conclusion:*

Your Committee, aware of the unsettled conditions in this war-cursed world, is nevertheless alive to the opportunities still given to promote the works of peace and to help establish homes and Churches

for those who seek a new fatherland. We covet the continued prayers and support of all our Churches and people, both in Canada and in the United States, and we commend our Synod to the special guidance of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of the King of the Church in all its deliberations and decisions.

Finally, Brethren, we are pleased to acquaint you with the contents of a letter from the Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands, sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, which reads as follows:

“Hooggeachte Broeders en Zusters in onzen Here Jezus Christus:

De Generale Synode van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, in vergadering te Rotterdam bijeen, besprak bij het rapport van haar deputaten voor de Emigratie ook het vele werk, dat door Uw Kerken is gedaan in het belang van de emigranten naar Canada.

De Generale Synode herdacht met grote dankbaarheid de grote offers, die U zich heeft willen getroosten voor de ontvangst, de geestelijke en kerkelijke verzorging van haar leden, die naar Canada vertrokken.

Het is voor onze Kerken in 't gemeen en voor de hier blijvende familie in het bijzonder een geruststelling en troost, dat onze emigranten in Canada een kerkverband vinden, dat ons geestelijk en historisch zo nauw verwant is.

De Generale Synode dankt U dan ook zeer voor Uw zorg en moeite in dezen, en, hoewel het vertrek van zoveel leden voor ons eigen Kerkverband een verlies is, hoopt de Synode toch zeer, dat zij voor Uw Kerkverband en voor de opbloei van Christus' Koninkrijk in Canada een verrijking mogen betekenen.

U voor het leven Uwer Kerken den zegen van God toewensend,  
Namens de Generale Synode,  
C. VanderWoude, Scriba, Synode

Humbly submitted,

Canadian Immigration Committee  
REV. P. J. HOEKSTRA, *President*  
MR. J. VANDERVLIEDT, *Sec.-treasurer*  
MR. J. VANDERVELDEN  
REV. A. DISSELKOEN  
REV. J. M. VANDEKIEFT, *Missionary-at-Large*

#### AUDITOR'S REPORT

Immigration Committee For Canada  
of the Christian Reformed Church,  
TRENTON, Ontario.

As instructed by you, I have made an examination of the books and vouchers of your committee for the year ended December 31, 1952 and present herewith the undernoted financial statements with my report thereon.

- (1) Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended December 31, 1952
- (2) Bank Reconciliation Statements at December 31, 1951 and at December 31, 1952

A detailed check of receipts and disbursements was carried out and the balances on deposit with the Canadian Bank of Commerce as at December 31, 1951 and as at December 31, 1952 were confirmed.

During 1952 a loss was sustained on American funds in the amount of \$1,448.64.

Cash surplus was increased by \$8,550.96 as a result of the year's operations, increasing the cash surplus on deposit as at December 31, 1952 to \$6,511.55.

The books and records in my opinion are complete, neat and accurate, and correctly determine all receipts and disbursements as listed in the financial statements attached.

TERRANCE M. READ,  
Auditor

Dated at Trenton, Ontario  
March 14, 1953.

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE FOR CANADA  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 1952

**RECEIPTS:**

Donations .....	\$69,490.60	
Less: Loss on American Funds.....	1,448.64	\$68,041.96

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Advertising .....	\$ 856.31	
Committee Meetings .....	316.54	
Exchange and Bank Charges.....	16.94	
Expenses Truro Reception Centre .....	462.14	
Labour paid by Committee Members.....	1,161.60	
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	576.83	
Office Supplies .....	297.28	
Postage and Excise .....	673.23	
Telephone and Telegraph .....	3,129.23	
Traveling Expenses .....	17,686.67	
Wages .....	34,314.23	59,491.00
		<u>\$ 8,550.96</u>

**CASH SURPLUS:**

Net Cash on Deposit December 31, 1951.....	\$ 2,039.41
Net Cash on Deposit December 31, 1952.....	\$ 6,511.55
	<u>\$ 8,550.96</u>

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE FOR CANADA  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

Bank Reconciliation — as at — December 31, 1951

**BALANCE ON DEPOSIT:**

Canadian Bank of Commerce, Trenton, Ontario Branch as per Bank Confirmation Certificate .....	\$1,088.20
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## ADD:

Cheques issued and not cashed as at December 31, 1951..... 951.21

NET CASH ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 1951.....\$2,039.41

**Bank Reconciliation — as at — December 31, 1952**

## BALANCE ON DEPOSIT:

Canadian Bank of Commerce, Trenton, Ontario Branch  
as per Bank Confirmation Certificate .....\$7,030.71

## LESS:

Cheques issued and not cashed as at December 31, 1952..... 519.16

NET CASH ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 1952.....\$6,511.55



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 24-A**  
(Arts. 96, 157)

**CANADIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Your Committee respectfully submits the following supplementary report.

The official immigration program has started this year with the first immigrant-boat arriving in the port of Halifax in February and is now continuing through the summer at the rate of four boats per month.

In our main report we called attention to the development of our work in the Maritimes. To this we would now add the opening of a new field in Canada's largest city and most important industrial center: Montreal, Quebec. Contrary to the view of many this city is not wholly Roman Catholic as is evident by the fact that the Presbyterians have their headquarters and no less than 28 churches in Montreal. Besides there are many other Protestant churches and a Protestant Immigration League which is encouraging Protestant Immigration into the Province of Quebec.

Moreover the Presbyterians through their Domestic Missions Board have inaugurated a program specifically with the view to sponsoring and assisting immigrants of Reformed faith to affiliate with their churches. They have already engaged a "Hervorind" minister from the Netherlands to minister to the needs of the Holland immigrants and have appointed a fieldman for sponsorship procurement and giving assistance to settlement of the immigrants.

Your Committee, realizing the urgency of the situation has therefore appointed a full-time fieldman for this extensive and strategic field. Home Missionary, Rev. A. H. Smit of the nearest neighboring church of Cornwall, Ont., has inaugurated services since Christmas 1952 and Classis Eastern Ontario is recommending this field for speedy occupancy by a Home Missionary.

Hence we recommend that to the list of full-time fieldmen appointees (see agenda page 145) be added the name of Mr. A. deJonge, residing in the city of Montreal, a leader of the group, who has been playing an important role in promoting the work since its beginning two years ago. This appointment will involve additional cost for salary and expenses.

Moreover the ruling made at the November meeting to discontinue all payments of part-time fieldmen from the denominational Immigra-

tion Fund brought reaction from the consistory of Lacombe, Alberta, and other places. The Committee, therefore, at its April meeting, reconsidered this action and decided to agree to a 50-50 payment of part-time fieldmen when and as these are duly appointed by the Committee.

In view of the above consideration we are compelled to ask for an increase of our quota to \$2.00 per family which is the same as requested last year (cf. Agenda page 145 recommendation 3).

Humbly submitted,

P. J. HOEKSTRA, *President*

J. VANDER VLIET, *Sec.-Treas.*

A. DISSELKOEN

J. VANDER VELDEN

J. M. VANDEKIEFT, *Missionary-at-Large*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 25**  
(Arts. 95, 113, 118, 133, 158)

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS**

The Christian Reformed Board of Missions has counted it a privilege to serve our denomination and very particularly the Synod in administering the foreign mission program of our Church. The mission program of our Church is varied and extensive, and the foreign mission arm of our Church life has in the past year been very much alive. We are grateful to God for the many new missionaries which have come from our Church ranks to join the mission forces on our several fields, and also grateful to the Lord that the necessary funds for the execution of the many tasks were available. The indispensable power of prayer has been evident, and the Holy Spirit has, we confidently trust, used also the labors of our missionaries to further the Kingdom of our Savior in many places.

SECTION ONE

ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

A. *Board Membership.* There has been a great deal of changing in board membership during this past year, especially due to the changing to other pastorates by some of our ministers, but also due to the new rule which limits the terms of service on our denominational boards. The membership of the board is made up of one delegate from each classis and three members-at-large. Since we have twenty-four classes the board is composed of twenty-seven delegates plus the Secretary of Missions who is a member ex-officio. The membership of the board at present is as follows:

CLASSES	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
Alberta .....	Rev. John C. Verbrugge.....	Rev. Elco H. Oostendorp
California .....	Rev. Gerrit B. Boerefyn.....	Rev. Frank De Jong
Chatham .....	Rev. John Gritter.....	Rev. Wm. D. Buursma
Chicago North .....	Rev. Martin Bolt .....	Rev. Oliver Breen
Chicago South .....	Rev. Henry Bajema .....	Rev. Edward Visser
Eastern Ontario .....	Rev. Albert H. Smit.....	Rev. David Grasman
Grand Rapids East .....	Rev. F. W. Van Houten.....	Rev. Clarence Boomsma
Grand Rapids South .....	Dr. Henry J. Kreulen.....	Rev. George Goris
Grand Rapids West.....	Rev. Richard De Ridder.....	Rev. Jacob D. Eppinga
Hackensack .....	Rev. Harold Bossenbroek.....	Rev. Dick Van Halsema
Hamilton .....	Rev. John M. Dykstra.....	Rev. Andrew D. Folkema
Holland .....	Rev. John Beebe .....	Rev. Carl Kromminga
Hudson .....	Rev. Wm. Vander Haak.....	Rev. Arie H. Oussoren
Kalamazoo .....	Rev. Simon A. Dykstra.....	Rev. John O. Schuring
Minnesota North .....	Rev. Simon Viss.....	Rev. Sidney Werkema
Minnesota South .....	Rev. John Roorda .....	Rev. Richard H. Wezeman
Muskegon .....	Rev. George Vander Kooi.....	Rev. John E. Scholten

CLASSES	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
Orange City .....	Rev. David D. Bonnema.....	Rev. John Masselink
Ostfriesland .....	Rev. Sidney P. Miersma.....	Rev. Garrett Pars
Pacific .....	Rev. Paul De Koekkoek.....	Rev. Walter Hekman
Pella .....	Rev. Menko Ouwinga.....	Rev. Albert Veltkamp
Sioux Center .....	Rev. G. Vander Plaats.....	Rev. Carl Toeset
Wisconsin .....	Rev. William Alkema.....	Rev. Bartel Huizenga
Zeeland .....	Rev. Henry Erffmeyer.....	Rev. Robert Evenhuis
Member-at-large .....	Dr. Richard S. Wierenga..	} Dr. Richard De Mol
Member-at-large .....	Dr. Edwin Y. Monsma.....	
Member-at-large .....	Mr. Joseph T. Daverman..	

In order to stagger the terms of service for our members-at-large and to preclude the retirement of more than one of these members in the same year, the board requests Synod to change the Mission Order, Article I, Section 5, which makes no mention of length of terms of service, to include "for three years," and Article II, Section 1, to read "three years" instead of "two years." To adjust the terms of service of Dr. E. Y. Monsma and Mr. J. T. Daverman to fit in with these amendments, Dr. Monsma's term shall expire in 1954 and Mr. Daverman's term in 1955.

Since the term of service of Dr. Richard S. Wierenga terminates with this session of Synod, it will be necessary to elect a replacement for him. He is not eligible for re-election since he has served more than six consecutive years. The board offers the following nomination for the consideration of Synod for this opening: Dr. Bernard Velzen and Mr. Herman Fles. Dr. Richard De Mol has served as general alternate for our members-at-large. Since his term expires but he is eligible for re-election, the board offers the following nomination for general alternate: Dr. Richard De Mol and Mr. Jerry Jonker.

Dr. Richard Wierenga will have completed nine years of service in June and carried the responsibilities of treasurer for three years. The board expressed its appreciation to Dr. Wierenga for his many years of valued service to the board and the cause of foreign missions. It was decided to also ask Synod to acknowledge Dr. Wierenga's many services for our cause.

**B. OFFICERS.** At present the officers of the board are: President, Dr. E. Y. Monsma; Vice President, Rev. Richard De Ridder; Secretary, Rev. Henry J. Evenhouse; Minute Secretary, Rev. John Beebe; Treasurer, Dr. Richard S. Wierenga; Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Joseph T. Daverman.

**C. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

1. The Executive Committee, which consists of representatives of the Michigan and Illinois classes, the members-at-large, and the Secretary of Missions, met regularly for all day sessions on the second Thursday of each month during 1952, excepting the month of December.

2. The Finance Committee, consisting of the three members-at-large and the Secretary, has served the board with a great deal of counsel in matters of finance and in preparation of financial reports. Mr. Harry Boersma has been serving as secretary of the finance committee.

3. The Recruiting Committee advised the board in all matters pertaining to appointments for mission service.

4. The Officers Committee served the board with advice from time to time on matters of policy.

5. The Promotion Committee is appointed to give special attention to the promotion of literature distribution concerning our work and the stimulation of mission interest in the Churches.

D. SECRETARY OF MISSIONS. Since the meeting of Synod in 1952, Rev. George Vander Kooi served in the office of the Secretary until Rev. Henry J. Evenhouse was able to assume his office. The present Secretary commenced his service in September. The board is very appreciative of the excellent services rendered by the Rev. Vander Kooi.

E. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF MISSIONS. At the time of the board meeting in February no assistant had yet been appointed. There were several applicants, but the board referred the entire matter to the Secretary and the executive committee for further consideration and possible decision. It is hoped that by the time Synod meets we will have been able to fill this vacancy.

F. OFFICE PERSONNEL. During the past year our office staff has done excellent work and because of the change in Secretaryship necessarily carried additional responsibilities. Mr. Harry Boersma has now completed five years of service as assistant to the treasurer and Miss Reta De Boer and Miss Julia Ensink have carried on the secretarial services.

G. REPRESENTATION AT SYNOD. In addition to the representation of the Secretary of Missions provided for by the Mission Order, the board requests Synod to permit it to be represented by Dr. E. Y. Monsma, our chairman, and Dr. R. S. Wierenga, our treasurer. Dr. Wierenga, chairman of our Organizational Chart Committee, has also been authorized by the board to represent it at Synod in matters pertaining to the organizational chart.

H. SURVEY OF FIELD PERSONNEL AND CALLING AND SUPPORTING CHURCHES. Our mission force has been considerably increased in the past year and there has also been a fine response on the part of many of our Churches which offered to become supporting Churches for our missionaries. At the present time we have several Churches ready to become supporting Churches if we can but secure the missionaries for

them. Our missionaries have carried on during the past year in loyalty and diligence and are worthy of the love and the sacrificial and prayerful support of all our Churches. We here present a list of our fields, posts, workers on the field or soon to leave for the field, and calling and/or supporting Churches:

FIELD AND POST	WORKER	CALLING AND/OR SUPPORTING CHURCH
<b>INDIAN</b>		
Crown Point .....	Rev. Jacob Van Bruggen.....	Sixteenth St., Holland
Farmington .....	Rev. Herman J. Schripsema..	Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids
Gallup .....	Rev. Donald E. Houseman....	Second, Kalamazoo
Nahaschitty .....	Mr. Edward Henry .....	
Phoenix .....	Rev. William Goudberg.....	Maple Ave., Holland
	Rev. C. G. Hayenga.....	Bethany, Muskegon
Rehoboth .....	Mr. Edward J. Berkompas.....	
	Dr. Louis H. Bos.....	Second Roseland, Chicago
	Mr. Arthur Bosscher.....	
	Mr. Leonard P. Brink.....	East Leonard, Grand Rapids
	Miss Lena Bulthuis.....	First Englewood, Chicago
	Miss Jane Deemter .....	
	Miss Cornelia De Witt.....	North St., Zeeland
	Mr. John T. Ebberts.....	
	Miss Marie Hoekstra .....	Overisel, Mich.
	Miss Dora Hofstra.....	Seymour, Grand Rapids
	Mr. William Hoekstra.....	
	Miss Josie Holtgeerts .....	
	Mr. Roland Kamps .....	
	Miss Clara Kollis .....	
	Miss Betty Kollis .....	
	Miss Mary Jean Kruis.....	First, Hudsonville
	Miss Mary Kuik .....	Waupun, Wisconsin
	Miss Perle Kuik .....	
	Miss Gertrude Oranje, R.N....	
	Miss Marie Peshlakai.....	
	Rev. Abel Poel .....	Rehoboth, N. M.
	Miss Renzina Stob .....	Alger Park and Boston Sq., Gd. Rapids; Millwood, Kalamazoo
	Miss Marie Vander Weide....	
	Miss Rena Van Doorne.....	
	Miss Sadie Van Dyken, R.N....	
	Miss Gertrude Van Haitsma..	First, Zeeland
	Miss Hattie Veurink .....	Pease, Minn.
	Mr. Theodore Visser.....	
	Miss Lucille Westen-	
	dorp, R.N. ....	Lee St., Grand Rapids
	Miss Sylvia Westen-	
	dorp, R.N. ....	Lee St., Grand Rapids
	Miss Evelyn Wybenga.....	
	Miss Marian Wybenga.....	
	Rev. George Yff .....	Sherman St., Grand Rapids
San Antone .....	Mr. Jacob Bol .....	
Shiprock .....	Rev. F. Vander Stoep .....	Classis Zeeland
	Mr. Richard Kruis .....	
	Miss Hermina Van Dyke.....	

FIELD AND POST	WORKER	CALLING AND/OR SUPPORTING CHURCH
Toadlena	Rev. J. C. Kobes	First and Immanuel, Ripon, California
	Miss Angie Nieuwsma	Eastern Sunday School Association
Tohatchi	Rev. J. R. Kamps	Drenthe, Mich.
Two Wells	Rev. J. B. Swierenga	Fuller Ave., Grand Rapids
	Miss Nellie Tibboel	Second, Pella, Iowa
Zuni	Miss Clara Bierenga	Grace, Kalamazoo
	Miss Helen De Lange	
	Mr. Julius Den Bleyker	Graafschap, Mich.
	Mr. C. Kuipers	Peoria, Iowa
	Miss Nellie Lam	Spring Lake, Mich.
	Mr. Gordon Lucht	Bethel, Paterson
	Miss Vera Rotman	
	Miss Carolyn Spoelhof	
	Miss Lenora Vander Veer	First, Zeeland
	Miss Rena Vander Woude	Third Roseland, Chicago
FORMOSA	Miss Lillian Bode	Second, Grand Haven
JAPAN	Rev. Henry Bruinooge	Emden, Prinsburg, and Raymond, Minn.
	Miss Magdalena Koets	Third, Kalamazoo
	Rev. Robert Sutton	Prospect Park, Holland
	Rev. Richard Sytsma	Bethel, Grand Rapids
	Rev. Edward A. Van Baak	Fourteenth St., Holland
SOUTH INDIA	Miss Anna C. Bosch	Spring Lake, Mich.
	Rev. Ralph Baker	Seymour, Grand Rapids
	Dr. Peter Y. De Jong	Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids
	Mr. Arthur V. Ramiah	Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids
	Rev. Leonard Sweetman	Third, Paterson
	Rev. Benjamin Ypma	Midland Park, N. J.
SUDAN		
Baissa	Miss Bena Kok, R.N.	First Englewood, Chicago
	Rev. Robert Recker	First, Orange City, Iowa
	Miss Jennie Stielstra	Second Fremont, Mich.
Lupwe	Dr. Joyce Branderhorst	Ninth St., Holland
	Dr. Roy Davis	Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids
	Miss Margaret Dykstra	Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids
	Mr. Raymond Grissen	Dennis Ave., Grand Rapids
	Mr. Gilbert Holkeboer	Maple Ave., Holland
	Miss Tena A. Huizenga, R.N.	First, Wellsburg, Iowa
	Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Smith	Ninth St., Holland
	Miss Anita Vissia, R.N.	Midland Park, N. J.
	Miss Evelyn Vredevoogd	Godwin Hgts., Grand Rapids
Mkar	Miss Aleda Vander Vaart, R.N.	Munster, Indiana
	Mr. Donald Van Reken	Second, Englewood, Chicago
Sevav	Rev. Gerard Terpstra	Alpine Ave., Grand Rapids
	Miss Betty Vanden Berg	First, Kalamazoo
	Miss Geraldine Vanden Berg	

FIELD AND POST	WORKER	CALLING AND/OR SUPPORTING CHURCH
Wukari .....	Rev. Peter Dekker .....	Fuller Ave., Grand Rapids
Zaki Biam .....	Rev. Peter Ipema .....	First, Rock Valley, Iowa
	Mr. Frederick Volkema.....	First, Denver, Colo.

The following workers are employed on our Indian field, although not under the direct (contract) appointment of our board:

Crown Point .....	Mr. Ben Henry
	Mr. Jack Toledo
Farmington .....	Mr. Chee Anderson
Gallup .....	Mr. Stewart Barton
Red Rock .....	Mr. John Redhouse
Rehoboth .....	Miss Lena Benally
	Miss Nettie Damon
	Miss Alice Denetdele
	Miss Irene Denetdele
	Mr. Tullie James
	Miss Elizabeth Manuelito
	Mrs. Dora Peshlakai
	Mr. John Talley
	Miss Molly Talley
	Miss Margaret Tibboel
	Mrs. Adrian Van Iwaarden
San Antone .....	Howard Redhouse
Shiprock .....	Mr. Sampson Yazzie
	Miss Bessie Joe
Toadlena .....	Mr. Sidney Nez
	Mr. William Barker
	Miss Marian Henry
Two Wells .....	Mr. Melvin Chavez
Zuni .....	Mr. Rex Natewa

The following churches are at present calling missionaries for foreign fields, but have thus far not yet been successful in securing a missionary-pastor: Bethel Edgerton; First Cicero; Coldbrook; Third Kalamazoo; LaGrave Ave.; Third Lynden.

We are very grateful to God for the love for missions as evidenced by the generous giving. Besides the regular quota for missions, many of our churches contribute also to the support of some specific missionary. Our missionaries deeply appreciate the personal interests of the congregations which support them and this relationship is also a source of special mission interest on the part of the supporting church. According to the rule of our Mission Order, Article VI, Section 3, a church which supports a missionary may under certain circumstances be free of the quota for the particular field in which its missionary is serving. Some of our churches have availed themselves of this privilege, but many of them have chosen to contribute their regular mission quota and have also carried on the support for their chosen missionary.



SECTION TWO  
GENERAL MATTERS

A. LOAN TO COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON. Synod of 1952, Acts p. 108, Art. IX, instructed the Christian Reformed Board of Missions to make a loan of \$10,000 to the Committee for South America and Ceylon. This transaction took place on December 26, 1952, and it is expected that the loan will be repaid within one year.

B. ANNUITIES. In reply to the Synod of 1952 with reference to annuities, we offer the following:

1. HISTORY

Classis Grand Rapids East in 1950 requested the Synod of our Church to make a study of the propriety of the sale of annuity bonds. This request was provoked by the advertising of such bonds by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. Thereupon Synod appointed a committee to make a special study of annuity bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies. This committee reported to the Synod of 1952, which report appears in Acts 1952, pp. 293-300.

This synodical study committee offered the following recommendation in Acts 1952, p. 300:

"That Synod express itself as opposed to the sale of annuities by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

*Grounds:*

- "1. It is not proper for the Church to enter the field of business.
- "2. It necessitates the creation of motivation for Christian giving through an appeal to material considerations, as is evident in annuity promotion literature, and thereby undermines the true motivation of Christian giving."

Thereupon Synod adopted the following recommendation:

"Synod postpone action until 1953 on the recommendation of this committee. *Ground:* The principle of annuities should be more carefully discussed by the Church at large and by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions before we can concur with the advice of the study committee on a matter of such far reaching importance." Acts 1952, p. 106.

2. OBSERVATIONS

a. The Synodical Study Committee sidestepped the real issue and the exact mandate, namely, to make a study of annuity bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies, and spent its force on calling attention to the common abuse so prevalent in the matter of annuities. Synod of 1952 felt this when it decided to postpone action on the

ground that "the principle of annuities should be more carefully discussed."

b. The Synodical Study Committee gave undue prominence to the annuities issued by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions because the mandate was the study of such bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies. At the present time Calvin College and Seminary receive such annuities.

c. Arguments on the basis of a prevalent abuse are not necessarily arguments against the principle as such. Many things are abused by many people but the fact of their abuse does not rule out the possibility or actuality of their proper use.

d. Such abuse of annuities is called to our attention by the Synodical Study Committee and various instances are cited. In such advertisements the element of security, financial gain, and a life income are stressed so much that the whole matter becomes a business deal and the element of giving to the Kingdom is relegated to a place of minor importance if it is mentioned at all.

e. Such abuse of the matter of receiving annuities is a real temptation to any ecclesiastical body making use of them. This danger must be admitted, faced, and then avoided.

### 3. *INFORMATION*

a. The matter of annuities is not one of great importance to the Christian Reformed Board of Missions and very little advertising has been done along this line. Most of the present annuities have come unsolicited. As a matter of fact, the Board has at present less than \$6,500.00 in Government bonds and cash in the annuity fund.

b. Although the Synod speaks of the "sale of annuity bonds" the Board has always looked upon the matter as the "reception of annuities." This means that for the Board this is not primarily a business proposition but rather a reception of this capital for safe-keeping and use for the Kingdom of God.

c. Such annuities are received from the donors to whom interest is paid proportionate to their age. The donors give this money to the Board with the stipulation that said donors receive a rate of interest for the remainder of their natural life, and upon the death of the donors this capital in toto becomes the Board's money. Such annuities are invested in U. S. Government bonds. Some people prefer this method of giving and feel satisfied that their money will be used by a cause dear to their hearts.

d. It is very evident that Synod is interested in the principle involved in annuities. This principle involves giving of money with certain considerations, receiving of these gifts, investment of the capital, interest on this amount, and similar questions. This is business, but

the Church always has an inevitable measure of legitimate business attached to its administration and program.

e. Pursuant to its policy thus far the Board does not emphasize the financing of its program in this manner, and thus receives the few annuities our people may wish to give.

4. *RECOMMENDATIONS*: We recommend that Synod approve the following position taken by the Board:

a. That the Board may receive annuities if the element of giving is predominant.

*Grounds*:

- (1) Such legitimate business is not morally wrong.
- (2) Such gifts allow for positive Kingdom participation.

b. That the Board does not solicit such annuities by advertisement.

*Grounds*:

- (1) Giving to the Church must not motivate from material gain.
- (2) Giving to the Church is a spiritual exercise in which the motivation of giving must remain predominant.

C. *REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP*. Since the Synod of 1952 requested our board to give special attention to the request of the Reformation Translation Fellowship for listing on the accredited causes, we propose to Synod that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions set up a Special Gift fund for the Reformation Translation Fellowship, that we inform the Churches concerning this fund, and permit a total of \$500 per year to be given to this fellowship if this amount is received. Our Japan Mission declared in one of its minutes: "The missionaries of the Japan Mission express agreement with the work of the Reformation Translation Fellowship and recommend that the board support them as far as possible."

The Reformation Translation Fellowship is currently publishing the *MANUAL OF REFORMED DOCTRINE* by Prof. L. Berkhof into the Chinese language and is chiefly interested in providing soundly Reformed literature for the Chinese reader. We believe this is a work of great promise.

### SECTION THREE FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### A. TREASURER'S REPORT

The following are statements of Summary of Receipts and Disbursements of various funds and of Assets and Liabilities at the close of December 31, 1952, as prepared by the Auditor, Mr. Peter Vander Meer, Certified Public Accountant. A detailed account of all transactions will be presented to the Budget Committee of Synod.

**ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF  
VARIOUS FUNDS FOR YEAR 1952**

Operating Fund Receipts .....	\$487,954.83	
Operating Fund Disbursements .....	550,622.35	
<hr/>		
Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....		\$62,667.52
Approved Projects and Specified Funds:		
Receipts .....	66,283.19	
Disbursements .....	63,146.66	
<hr/>		
Excess Receipts over Disbursements.....		\$ 3,136.53
Annuity Funds:		
Receipts .....	134.41	
Disbursements .....	299.00	
<hr/>		
Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....		164.59
	\$ 3,136.53	\$62,832.11
<hr/>		
Net Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....	\$59,695.58	
Plus items included in Special Gifts Receipts:		
Gifts received and held for Special Purposes (donor-designated) .....	15,402.40	
Gifts received and set aside for Synodically Approved Projects .....	17,965.71	
	\$93,063.69	
Less Acquired Assets, etc., paid out of		
Special Gifts Fund .....	\$63,146.66	
Decrease in Annuity Fund.....	164.59	
	63,311.25	
Decrease in Net Worth .....		\$29,752.44

**BALANCE SHEET**

ASSETS

<i>Operating Fund:</i>		
Peoples Nat'l Bank, Checking Account.....	\$ 94,062.29	
Merchants Bank, Gallup, Checking Account.....	7,410.04	
Merchants Bank, Gallup, Building Account.....	325.90	
Petty Cash at Stations.....	5,037.50	
U. S. Bonds unappropriated .....	109,240.00	
<hr/>		
Total Operating Fund .....		\$216,075.73
<i>Other Assets:</i>		
Accounts Receivable .....	\$ 4,276.36	
Accounts Receivable — Rehoboth .....	2,445.41	
Notes Receivable — Missionaries .....	3,131.98	
Notes Receivable — South American Fund.....	10,000.00	
Advances .....	800.00	
Inventories of Supplies — Rehoboth and Zuni.....	9,955.54	
Prepaid 1953 Budget and Salary Payments.....	22,092.65	
<hr/>		
Total Other Assets .....		\$ 52,701.94

*Funded Reserves, Approved Projects and Gifts:*

Old Kent Bank — Checking Account.....	\$ 52,410.84	
Stocks and Securities .....	20,480.00	
U. S. Bonds — Approved Projects .....	12,487.50	
U. S. Bonds — Specified Gifts.....	54,020.00	
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$139,398.34</b>

*Funded Reserves — Specified:*

U. S. Bonds — Beets Memorial .....		6,000.00
Annuity Fund — U. S. Bonds.....	\$ 1,739.00	
Annuity Fund — Savings Acct., Peoples Nat'l Bank	3,493.69	
Annuity Funds — Checking Acct., Old Kent Bank	953.85	
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$ 6,186.54</b>

**FIXED ASSETS**

Land and Buildings .....	\$695,218.95	
Residence — 725 Benjamin Ave.....	23,562.84	
	<b>\$718,781.79</b>	
Less Reserves for Depreciation.....	210,616.26	508,165.53
Furniture and Equipment .....	\$159,278.38	
Less Reserves for Depreciation.....	73,351.78	85,926.60
<b>Book Value of Fixed Assets .....</b>		<b>\$594,092.13</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>		<b>\$1,014,454.68</b>

**BALANCE SHEET****LIABILITIES***Current Liabilities:*

Accounts Payable — General .....	\$ 1,559.10	
Accounts Payable — Zending's Centrum.....	252.60	
Reserve for Pension Fund.....	36.31	
Amounts Owing to Missionaries, held in trust for Car Depreciation .....	3,757.50	
<b>Total Current Liabilities .....</b>		<b>\$ 5,605.51</b>
Liability for Reserve for Indian Evangelistic Work		5,085.60

*Liabilities for Approved Projects and**Specified Funds:*

Unexpended for all Mission Fields .....	\$ 42,041.75	
Unexpended for Synodically Approved Projects.....	80,396.75	
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$122,438.50</b>

*Specified Funds and Reserve:*

Beets Memorial Fund .....	\$ 5,961.20	
Annuity Fund .....	6,475.44	
Collected Down Payment on Land Sold.....	2,000.00	
Reserve for Fire Insurance — Indian Field.....	11,000.00	
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>25,436.64</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES .....** **\$158,566.25**

EQUITIES

Net Worth, January 1, 1952.....	\$980,711.03	
Addition for Furniture, Equipment and Buildings....	5,672.48	
		\$986,383.51
Decrease in Net Worth.....		29,752.44
		<u>\$956,631.07</u>
Less Depreciation Calendar Year.....	\$33,226.00	
Less Set Aside for Synodically Approved Projects .....	62,431.04	
Less Set Aside for Indian Evangelistic Work .....	5,085.60	100,742.64
		<u>100,742.64</u>
Net Worth, December 31, 1952.....		\$ 855,888.43
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITIES.....</b>		<b>\$1,014,454.68</b>

Finance Committee  
 Christian Reformed Board of Missions  
 Grand Rapids, Michigan  
 Gentlemen:

I have examined the accounting records and general ledger of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for the year ended December 31, 1952, and have compiled a balance sheet as at that date, and a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year 1952, which in my opinion present fairly the financial position and the results of the operations of your Mission.

Books and vouchers were kept in excellent manner, and bank balances and securities were on hand.

My examination was in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

Very truly yours,  
 PETER B. VANDER MBER, C.P.A.

B. BUDGETS

1. BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 1953. In addition to those budget requests for 1953 which were approved by the Synod of 1952, other requests have come in which the Board felt it could not deny. Funds to meet these requests are on hand or will be when special gifts for these requests have been received. But the approval of Synod is still needed to use such funds for these specific projects.

a. We request approval of the following expenditures for special needs for 1953 from General Operating Funds:

(1) Farmington — Extra Labor .....		\$ 100.00
(2) Gallup — Repair Sidewalk — Hayenga House .....		150.00
(3) Rehoboth — Water Tank Repair.....	\$2,500.00	
Service Truck Upkeep .....	500.00	3,000.00
		<u>3,000.00</u>
(4) Rehoboth Field Pastor — Vacation Bible School .....		50.00

(5) Indian Village —		
Vacation Bible School .....	50.00	
Water Softener .....	186.00	186.00
(6) Rehoboth Hospital —		
Mileage Doctor Car .....	180.00	
Lab Equipment .....	1,000.00	1,180.00
(7) Shiprock — Additional Rent .....		270.00
(8) Tohatchi — Manse Stucco Repairs.....	600.00	
Church Painting .....	740.00	
Garage, Office roof repair.....	650.00	1,990.00
(9) Zuni — Roofing on Building.....	485.00	
Electric Wiring and Fixtures .....	165.00	
Native Evangelist Help — Summer.....	240.00	890.00
(10) Formosa — Salary and Budget.....	5,000.00	
Travel, freight, etc.....	1,000.00	6,000.00
		<u>\$13,816.00</u>

b. We request approval for the following expenditures for special needs for 1953 from Special Gifts Funds:

(1) Farmington — Water Heater .....	\$ 90.00	
4 safety valves — gas lines.....	100.00	
Stub-ins — Gas, Water, Sewer.....	75.00	265.00
(2) Rehoboth — Service Truck for Field Man.....		2,000.00
(3) SUDAN — Medical Supplies .....	2,800.00	
Additional for Single Person's House and		
Married Couples House at Zaki Biam .....	1,680.00	
Married Couples House at Harga .....	1,120.00	
Single Person's House at Baissa .....	1,400.00	
Adding Machine .....	200.00	7,200.00
		<u>\$ 9,465.00</u>

2. BUDGET REQUEST FOR 1954. A complete list of details of the budget requests for 1954 will be submitted to the officers of Synod and to members of its budget committee when Synod meets.

Here is a summary of these requests:

a. Operating Budget (basic):

Indian .....	\$341,557.85
Japan .....	82,300.00
South India .....	77,916.00*
Sudan .....	138,775.80
Administration — General .....	65,025.00
	<u>\$705,574.65</u>
Less Estimates Salary Receipts.....	75,000.00

Balance to come from Quotas.....\$630,574.65

\*Subject to review before Synod meets.

Based upon 41,060 families we respectfully request a quota of 15.37 per family.

b. Special Gifts Budget:

(1) Farmington — New Car .....		\$ 1,700.00	
(2) Two Wells — Chapel .....		4,000.00	
(3) Japan — Housing .....		15,000.00	
(4) Sudan — Sevav — Car .....	\$	2,750.00	
Harga — Car .....		2,750.00	
Five "study and consultation rooms" for missionaries .....		1,400.00	
Baissa — Single Person's House.....		1,800.00	
Lupwe — Storage Building .....		700.00	9,400.00
<hr/>			
(5) India — Erecting Chapels, etc. ....		4,000.00	
Larger Quarters — Adoni .....		14,000.00	
Missionaries' Homes .....		3,000.00	21,000.00*
<hr/>			
			\$51,100.00

\*Subject to review before Synod meets.

C. A PLEA FOR PROMPT REMITTANCES FROM TREASURERS.

During the first months of the year the financial income at the mission office is far below the expenditures. This is due to the fact that the quotas for the first quarter do not come in during the early part of the year. During the first six months of 1952 the income for missions at our office amounted to \$121,631.81 and the expenditures amounted to \$270,954.76, showing that the expenditures exceeded income during that period to the amount of \$149,322.95. During the course of the year this is balanced. However, it does indicate that the board must have a sizeable reserve on hand annually and also that delays in sending in the quotas in the early part of the year works severe handicap on the treasurer.

SECTION FOUR  
THE INDIAN FIELD

A. CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE. The General Conference of Indian missionaries appointed the Rev. Donald E. Houseman to be its representative at the last board meeting and Synod. Such a representative is usually heartily received by Synod and given the privilege of the floor when Indian mission matters are discussed.

B. PROGRESS OF THE WORK. The mission service in New Mexico is an intensive and extensive program. All our staff has in the past few years been working under some psychological difficulty due to the "status quo" decision which threatened to stifle initiative and ambition for the work. Nevertheless, the "status quo" stand of Synod does not mean that the work stood still. There has been virtually no addition in white personnel or building on the field, save as replacements were needed, but the effort to evangelize the Navaho and the Zuni tribes



went on steadily and there have been instances of genuine progress. Along with the progress there have also been instances of deep disappointment. Some who gave great promise for Church membership and spiritual leadership fell back again into error and sin. But there are several believers groups which give promise of an emerging Church. The question is not altogether settled in the minds of our missionaries as to whether we must strive for an absolutely native Church or whether the proximity of the whites to the Indians will mean a mixed Church and therefore possibly Christian Reformed Churches rather than native Churches.

We are happy that we can report that Mr. John T. Ebbers, our new business manager, has entered into his work with great zeal and energy. For the sake of expediting matters, it has been decided to have him assume general managership over all property and building problems on the whole field. This has required some changes in organizational detail, but evidently will work out for the good of the work and, we trust, will relieve the missionaries of many problems concerning property and building.

C. REHOBOTH HOSPITAL. Our medical work at Rehoboth is very much appreciated by the Indians and serves significantly in mellowing the attitude of the Indians towards our missionaries and our Church. The native hostility and reserve that are often present, and the spiritual barriers that hinder easy approach to the Indian, are by way of the hospital often broken down. It is an important agency in dealing with the role of the medicine man and the superstitions attached to him.

The problem at present is hospital reconstruction or addition. Considerable study has gone into the hospital needs and our doctor has endeavored to bring the needs home to the Board. A committee has been appointed by the board to make a thorough study of this matter and report to the executive committee, which shall serve Synod with advice in a supplementary report.

D. REHOBOTH PROPERTY. Our Church has long been owner of a tremendous area of ground in New Mexico. In the summer of 1952 the El Paso Natural Gas Co. of El Paso, Texas, approached our board regarding the purchase of approximately 400 acres of our land lying north of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks with an offer of \$6,000. The company's purpose for desiring this land is for the erection of a re-fractionating plant in which propane and butane gases may be distilled from natural gas. They also desire to erect a number of homes for employees of the company. Because of the land's comparatively little value to our mission and with a view to forestalling the company's locating nearby without restrictions, our finance committee was

empowered to negotiate the sale of this property to the above mentioned company.

After consultation with General Conference on our Indian field and with the assurance that the land would be used for only such purposes as permitted by our board, the finance committee, with the approval of the executive committee, offered this property to the El Paso Natural Gas Co. for the sum of \$15,000. This offer was accepted and the documents involved have been duly executed with the approval of the board at its meeting in February. The following stipulations and restrictions were agreed upon:

1. The company agrees to guarantee our present rate of water supply, 12 gal. per minute.
2. Effective guarantees against offensive smokes and odors and the sale of intoxicating liquors.
3. Proper guarantees against resale of property contrary to the wishes of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.
4. Effective guarantees that there will be no unnecessary Sunday labor—both during the construction of the plant and during its operation.
5. The assurance that the Southern Gas Company will furnish gas to Rehoboth Mission.

**E. LANGUAGE PROBLEM.** It remains the conviction of the board that it is important that missionaries know the language of the people with whom they labor. Our missionaries in the past have not been required to secure a thorough knowledge of the language and have only in a few instances been given time for the acquisition of this knowledge. General Conference has given serious thought to this matter and has offered its thinking to the board and the board has once again requested General Conference to give the entire matter further consideration. The suggested plan now is that we prepare a native to teach the language to new missionaries coming to the field.

#### SECTION FIVE INDONESIA

For several years the invitation to enter Indonesia has confronted our Church. After six declines from ministers called to Indonesia and the inabilities of both the Rev. A. H. Smit and the Rev. Clarence Van Ens to serve in investigating the field, the board appointed a committee to review the matter once again. We present to Synod the following report and recommendations:

Since 1948 the question of sending missionaries to Indonesia has faced our board and the Christian Reformed Church Synod. We have called ordained men to this work, but none of those called were ready to accept. Our board at one time tried to secure the service of the

Rev. Albert H. Smit to have him survey the field as a possible field of mission service, but the General Committee for Home Missions was not willing to yield him for the time that would be required. Subsequently, the Rev. Clarence Van Ens was requested to go to Indonesia when on his way to Ceylon, but he also was unable to accept such assignment.

Nevertheless, the need for the gospel in that part of the world continues to press upon us and the desire of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands as well as the desires of the established Reformed Churches of Indonesia continue to demand further consideration on our part of further possible endeavor in that area. Dr. R. O. De Groot, while in the office of the secretary, wrote to the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia indicating that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions was continuing its investigation of the Indonesia area as a possible mission field for the Christian Reformed Church. In reply to this letter we have an answer from the Synod of the Reformed Church of Indonesia signed by Rev. L. W. Korvinus and P. Rozendal, chairman and secretary respectively of the Dutch Reformed Church of Medan, to whom the letter was referred for answer. It is a very extensive answer, reviewing the general Church and mission pattern now existing in Indonesia, and offering specific suggestions for possible mission service. It concludes with great appeal for continued interest and specific entrance into the work. Instead of entering into an elaborate review of the whole matter, we will offer the main thrust of the letter which we received from these brethren which is the official answer to our request for information from the Dutch Reformed Church Synod.

The need for additional missionary service to Indonesia is beyond question. Whether we turn to this letter of their Synod or turn to other materials that are available to us, there is simply but one answer: The need is enormous and the opportunities abound. Whether we think of it in terms of winning souls to Christ or building the Church or being a light in the midst of darkness or stemming the tide of anti-Christian doctrines, the entire Asian world cries aloud to the Church: Send out the light! Our correspondent from the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia concludes his message with the following paragraph:

"Come over to Sumatra and help us! In the present world situation it must be considered a great opportunity given to the Church, that almost without any limitation you can preach the Gospel in Indonesia, though there is an overwhelming majority of Islamites. This opportunity is still given. For how many years, nobody can tell us! We sincerely hope your Churches will join us and do the work that is done now for the sake of the Lord, without hesitation."

The REFORMED JOURNAL of December 1952 carried an article by J. A. C. Rullmann under the title "Reformed Mission Work in Central Java." From this article we gather that missionary work in Java is encouraging and that there continues to be in that area a wonderful open door for mission service. The correspondent of the Synod, however, indicates that it is the unanimous conviction of the Dutch Reformed Church Synod that if we enter with them into the work it is advisable that we consider entering the great Island of Sumatra.

There has been a great migration of some 900,000 people from the Island of Java to Sumatra and this great mass of people now constitutes a great missionary challenge for the Church in Sumatra. Then also, in the Island of Sumatra, the power of Islam is very strong and there is need for the counter witness of Christianity there.

In Northern Sumatra, which might roughly be considered the territory of the Church at Medan, there are some 500,000 Javanese and in Southern Sumatra, which may be considered the territory of the Church of Palembang, there are some 400,000 Javanese. These people have been the objects of the Sumatra Reformed Church mission work since 1930. The work carried on amongst the Javanese is supported also by the cooperation of the Reformed Church in Java. With reference to this Javanese work in the Island of Sumatra, the letter says:

"In the opinion of the Synod of the (Dutch) Reformed Churches in Indonesia and even more in the opinion of the Churches of Medan and Palembang there exists for your Churches a most important working area in Sumatra primarily amongst the Javanese groups of the population in cooperation with the three Churches which are already active there with an inadequate number of workers (Medan, Palembang, Djakarta).

"To what extent there will be room left for your Churches to (secondarily) work among the Chinese population apart from the activities done in this respect by the Methodist Church is not yet ascertainable. Most probably there are however some possibilities also in this respect."

The Synod too is of the opinion that working arrangements can easily be established between us in our work and the existing body now working in Indonesia. It is, however, necessary to have the Javanese Church do the calling of the missionary who is then to serve under the direction of that Church. Nevertheless, the letter also says: "When your Churches have decided to send missionaries to Indonesia, especially to Sumatra, they will serve under your Churches in some relation with the Javanese Church of Djakarta and the (Dutch) Reformed Churches at Medan and Palembang."

With reference to the question that Dr. De Groot asked in his letter as to the hazard that missionaries would encounter in Java, the letter gives the assurance that there would in Sumatra be no abnormal hazards save as such as are always common to those who are engaged in missionary service.

There are two possible approaches that we may now follow in dealing with this question of missionary service to Indonesia:

#### I. IN FAVOR OF SENDING MISSIONARIES TO INDONESIA:

A. We have at present no foreign mission work specifically directed against the Moslem faith. Here is a strategic opportunity.

B. The influence religiously of America in Indonesia is largely either Christian Day Adventism or Pentecostal or Roman Catholic.

C. With a population of 77,000,000 there is yet great opportunity for Christian mission work in that area.

D. Since the war, the need for leadership in the native Churches has been very great because the former Dutch leadership has been reduced and the native leadership has not been able to do justice to the need.

E. The historical fact that the Reformed faith has had the inside track compels us to ask whether or not we are not challenged here to enter in and continue the Reformed witness in that part of the world, and assist our fellow Reformed Church in its great need.

#### II. CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD CAUSE US TO HESITATE.

A. There is already a great record in that area of Christian witness.

B. The native Church is established in Sumatra as well as in Java although the need for further mission work is indisputably great.

C. We have already called several men to take up the work but without success.

D. Entrance upon this work would mean an entirely new area for mission service for our Church and will require a considerable period for orientation to anyone entering the service there for us.

E. The work would have to be in some way a joint enterprise in that we would have to work in conjunction with another ecclesiastical body.

F. Our decision will be dependent upon our other commitments:

1. Will Japan demand more of our resources both as to men and money?

2. What will the further expansion needs and opportunities in Nigeria imply?

3. How great and heavy will our obligations be for South India in the foreseeable future?

It is our impression that the Indonesian opportunity is certainly an open door for mission service for our Church. We know, however, that there are open doors also in several other directions and that it is not good policy to enter new areas unless those currently being worked give reasonable assurance of completion.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. To advise Synod that for the present we discontinue further effort to secure missionaries to serve our Church in Indonesia.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The appeal for expansion which we face in Nigeria.
2. Our present limited manpower in missions.
3. The heavy commitments we already have in our several other fields for foreign missions.

B. To inform the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia that we very greatly appreciate their willingness to have us join in their work, that we appreciate too the great need for the gospel amongst the Indonesian people and the importance of missionary service in that part of the world, but that we feel ourselves at the present unable to enter into the Indonesian area because of the expanding demands of our presently occupied and expanding fields.

### SECTION SIX FORMOSA

Miss Lillian Bode, who formerly served our Church in both China and Zuni, arrived in Formosa on the first day of March 1953 to commence her mission service on that island. Through correspondence with the Rev. J. Galbraith, general secretary of the Committee on Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, assurance had been given to our board that the missionaries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Formosa would be very happy to have Miss Bode come to Formosa and enter the work and they also gave assurance that she could work in cooperation with them. This is in line with the decision of last year's Synod (Acts, p. 78, Art. IV).

### SECTION SEVEN JAPAN

We have at the present time four ordained missionaries and one Bible Woman working in Japan; and three Churches which are calling missionaries for Japan: Bethel Edgerton; Coldbrook Grand Rapids; Lagrave Ave. Grand Rapids.

Up to the present our missionaries have been primarily occupied with language study and have also given some time in extending hospitality to our servicemen located in Japan.

It has been decided that the Rev. E. A. Van Baak shall be located in Suwa, a city of about 30,000 population, and that the Rev. Henry Bruinooge be located in Kofu with a population of 120,000. Kofu is located between Tokyo and Suwa, 75 miles from Tokyo and 44 miles from Suwa. These locations were chosen by our Japan Mission with the advice of the Reformed Church of Japan. The Van Baaks plan to move to Suwa this spring and the Bruinooge family will likely leave Tokyo for Kofu sometime this summer.

Rev. Robert Sutton and Rev. Richard Sytsma are both giving most of their time to language study as yet; there has been no decision with reference to their specific location. Miss Magdalena Koets has currently been serving as teacher in the Christian School in Tokyo while also carrying on her language study.

Our missionaries in Japan have given encouraging reports on their work and indicate that the door to Japan remains open for missions. They have close fellowship with the missionaries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and keep close touch in their work with the Reformed Church of Japan, which is soundly Reformed and zealous for further missionary service to Japan.

Plans are at present in the making for sending the Rev. Shigeaki Fujii to the United States for a two or three year period of study at Calvin. Classes Chicago North and South have agreed to underwrite this venture to the amount of \$7,000. The brother is an ordained minister of the Reformed Church of Japan and has been heartily recommended for this scholarship by our missionaries. The board has agreed to attend to the arrangements.

#### SECTION EIGHT SOUTH INDIA

India has been an active mission field for the Christian Church for over a century, but our Church officially took over a phase of mission service to India in 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Ramiah and Miss Ann Bosch are our first missionaries to that land and early this year they were joined by the Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin Ypma and Dr. and Mrs. Peter Y. De Jong. Our mission is divided into two divisions, that of the Bellary and the Mysore districts. Mr. Ramiah has been serving as treasurer, but up to the present there has not been a formal organization of a mission conference on the field.

The work in South India will center chiefly in guiding the native Church which is emerging and in training native leadership for evangelistic and pastoral work. Miss Bosch has completed her language study, and the new missionaries are currently busy at that task.

The Rev. Ralph Baker has been called by the Seymour Christian Reformed Church for South India, but is still awaiting his entrance

visa. During the interim period he has been serving as stated supply, first at Cleveland, Ohio, and at present at Goshen, Indiana. The Rev. Leonard Sweetman of Conrad, Montana, has been called for South India by the Third Church of Paterson. Application for his visa will be made some time this spring.

## SECTION NINE SUDAN

We may report that the work in Nigeria has continued with great blessings from the Lord. God has given us opportunity to enter further into the Tiv work which was an expansion of our field permitted by the Synod of 1950. We are currently being invited by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission to further penetrate the Tiv area, but this matter has been referred to the General Conference on the field for study and recommendation. We feel that we are richly privileged in that there will be two doctors going to the Sudan field this year. Dr. Roy Davis will be in Nigeria by the time Synod meets and Dr. Joyce Branderhorst will be leaving for the field during the summer of 1953.

There are two matters that will require special synodical attention. The matter of a delegation to our field in the Sudan will need synodical approval, and the constitution of the African Christian Church is a matter of information.

1. *Delegation.* Our Nigerian General Conference presented a request that a delegation of our home board be sent to the field some time in the early part of 1954. This request was made because of the Sudan United Mission Jubilee which is scheduled for that time. Representatives of all sponsoring Churches and boards are being invited to attend this Jubilee and the conference feels our Church should be represented also. The board recommends to Synod that we send such a delegation to the field to represent us at the Jubilee celebration, to visit our mission field, and to consult, as need may demand, with the mission authorities concerning further expansion of our work in the Tiv area. The delegation as elected: Rev. H. J. Evenhouse and Mr. J. T. Daverman. Rev. J. Verbrugge and Dr. H. J. Kreulen were elected their respective alternates.

2. *Constitution.* The Board was given a copy of the proposed constitution of the Ekklesiya Christi Cikin Sudan and we offer to Synod the brief history of this constitution as prepared by a committee of the board:

This proposed constitution was drawn up by missionaries of the Sudan United Mission appointed for this purpose by the Field Council of the S.U.M. The idea of having such a constitution was first brought forward by the native Christians at a Christian fellowship gathering. The native Christians belonging to the several branches of the African



Christian Church as it is at present being promoted by the Sudan United Mission indicated that they desired a more formal organization of their Church so that the African Christian Church might secure recognition by the government as being an institution independent of and quite distinct from our missions. It is also necessary if the African Christian Church is to have legal standing before the government that it have a formulated constitution. Thus, in order to gain recognition as an indigenous religion and to have recognition also as an independent organization, the native Christians desired that a constitution be formulated for the benefit of the Church. The Field Council of the S.U.M. thereupon appointed a committee to draw up such a constitution. Concerning this proposed constitution, we read the following:

"The following is a draft constitution for the Ekklesiya Kristi Cikin Sudan which is the name given to all those Churches which are under the guidance of the Sudan United Mission and Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria. This draft is now going to all the Church councils of that Church and the home boards of the two missions for comment and criticism with view to putting this into practice early in the year 1954. Hausa copies will be sent to all the councils in Nigeria. It is hoped — especially with regard to home boards — that early action will be taken so that the end of 1952 will see all replies placed before the advisory bodies here."

The above quotation is a brief explanation attached to the original copy of the constitution submitted to us for our consideration. From the above we can gather that we are not being asked to approve this constitution but rather to offer our comments and criticism. It is currently being studied by the regional Churches in Africa so that the natives themselves may have a voice in the matter, and it is also being studied by the boards which are sponsoring the work in the S.U.M. region.

We must remember in this connection the decisions of our Synod in both 1939 and 1945. In 1939 our board in reporting to Synod, and the Synod by its acceptance of the board report, took the following position with reference to the native Church in Africa:

"The Church is willing to cooperate with the rest of the S.U.M. work in Nigeria by appointing a representative on the Field Council and by showing sympathy with the African Church aims of the mission." (Board report to Synod 1939).

In 1945, after Synod officially recognized the existing congregation on our Nigerian field, and the sincere greetings of the Nigerian Church had been extended to our Synod through the Rev. E. H. Smith, the following decision was taken by our Synod:

"Your committee recommends that Synod endorse the policy of Church union as now in effect on our Nigerian field. The term 'Church Union' may raise in our minds the spectre of denominations seeking to unite organically. That is not the connotation of the term as applied to Nigeria. It refers to a rather loose organization, a spiritual fellowship, with only advisory powers.

*Grounds:*

"1. This is in harmony with our decision of 1939 to continue the work on the Nigerian field along indigenous lines.

"2. It would do irreparable harm to the work if this policy were to be discontinued." Acts 1945, p. 45.

The above was then adopted by the Synod as our official position.

In the light of the above history we can observe that the native Church is coming to a point of maturity and that the Church established in our region will have to be viewed constantly as a body that is very close to our mission but nevertheless as having independent standing from our mission.

After reviewing the proposed constitution and suggesting some changes and additions, the board decided to send a letter to the regional Church in our mission area containing the following elements:

1. We have taken notice of and have offered some comments concerning the proposed constitution.

2. We give God praise for the great blessing upon our mission work in Africa in that it has been crowned with the establishment of the native Church.

3. We remind the Church in our mission area that the Reformed heritage entrusted to her is exceedingly precious and involves her with great spiritual responsibility to adhere to the Reformed faith and to promote it.

4. We also remind the regional Church that we cannot permit intimate Christian fellowship and mission service of our mission with the regional Church in our mission area except that Church be Reformed in its doctrine and practice.

5. We shall in our home Church continue to pray and work for the spiritual good of the Church in Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS  
HENRY J. EVENHOUSE, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 25-A**  
(Arts. 95, 113, 118, 133, 158)

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

Since writing the report for the agenda the work of missions as a living force has been going ahead and it is necessary to supplement that report with additional material. We trust you will bear with us in this matter.

**I. ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL.**

- A. Board Membership.** Since the agenda was published we have had a few changes in board membership:  
 Classis Minnesota South: Rev. R. Wezeman replaced Rev. J. Roorda  
 Classis Muskegon: Rev. J. Scholten replaced Rev. G. Vander Kooi  
 Classis Zeeland: Rev. R. Evenhuis replaced Rev. H. Erffmeyer
- B. Members-at-Large.** It will be necessary for Synod to elect a new member to our board to replace Dr. R. S. Wierenga who retires at this time. We presented a nomination in the agenda, but must inform Synod that Mr. Herman Fles has asked to be excused from such service at this time. In his place the executive committee places the name of Mr. John Van Dellen. The nomination now is: John Van Dellen and Bernard Velzen. (cf. Agenda, p. 150).
- C. Assistant Secretary.** For some time the effort has been put forth to secure additional help in our home office and we were authorized to secure the services of someone to be assistant secretary. At the April meeting of our executive committee Mr. Alvin Huijbregtse, for many years a teacher and principal in our Christian school system, was appointed. He expects to enter into his work on or about July 1, 1953. (cf. Agenda, p. 151).
- D. Personnel.** We are grateful to God for raising up new missionaries for our several fields. During this summer and the coming fall the following will enter the mission service for our church:  
 Miss Hilda Fridsma, as Bible Woman at Shiprock  
 Miss Theresa Van Houw as missionary-nurse at Rehoboth Hospital  
 Mr. Paul Redhouse as missionary at Red Rock  
 Miss Beulah Buus as teacher at Rehoboth  
 Miss Thelma Schoolland as teacher at Zuni  
 Dr. Joyce Branderhorst as doctor in Nigeria  
 Miss Geraldine Vanden Berg as teacher in Nigeria  
 Miss Lillian Heronimus is also one of the new workers at Reho-

both. She commenced her service this spring and is already serving as the receptionist at Rehoboth Hospital.

- E. *Calling Churches.* Since Bethel Church, Edgerton, has become a calling church for Alaska, the consistory has asked to be released as a calling church for Japan.

## II. GENERAL MATTERS.

### A. *Mission Principles Study Committee Report.*

1. Notice was taken of the Mission Principles Study Committee. We submit the following comments concerning it and also include a copy of the Organizational Chart for convenient reference:

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS ON THE MISSION PRINCIPLES STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE SYNODS OF 1952 AND 1953

During the past months the report of the MPSC has received the attention of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions through its Executive Committee. The report of the MPSC was given to several standing committees of the Board for special study and recommendation. The Executive Committee herewith presents the following appraisal of the MPSC report as based on the respective reports of these several committees:

In presenting our evaluation of the MPSC reports to the Synods of 1952 and 1953, the Christian Reformed Board of Missions has also considered the appraisal of this report as presented to the Board and to Synod by the Indian General Conference. We regret that the MPSC did not carry out the instructions received from the Synod of 1952 with respect to proposed regulations (Acts 1952, page 67, Article 135, 5. d) and has not consulted officially with the Board regarding these matters. Had this been done, we feel that many of the matters on which we differed with the committee may have had a satisfactory resolution without the necessity of Synod dealing with these matters. It was not possible for the Board to present an appraisal of last year's report to the Synod of 1952 since the report was not in the hands of the church in sufficient time for careful evaluation and study.

We appreciate greatly that in setting forth the principles of mission work the MPSC has given the important spear-head position to EVANGELISM as *the* first and primary missionary task of the Church. The Board (as also the Synod of 1952) is in agreement with the "spirit and general content" of the reports on Evangelism and Medicine, and we can assure Synod we have been endeavoring throughout to carry on the evangelistic task in accordance with this statement of policy.

In appraising the report of the MPSC to the Synod of 1953 we feel obliged to express ourselves respecting the mandate of the MPSC as defined by the Synod of 1950 (Acts 1950, Art. 153, p. 79-80) and the execution of this mandate by the MPSC. It is our understanding that the mandate of the committee does not refer to mission principles in the general or broad sense (as the name of the committee might indicate), but in a very limited sense, namely with respect to *indigenous* principles of mission work. The mandate is very specific on this score; the committee was charged:

1. "To formulate the principles of indigenous mission work,
2. "To formulate the regulations governing the application of *such* principles to the church and her board, etc.,
3. "To formulate the specific application of *these* principles and regulations to the Indian Mission field." (*italics ours*)

The thrust of the mandate is very specific: the MPSC was charged with the *formulation and application of indigenous mission principles*. This we feel has not been done. Nowhere in the report is there a specific definition of the indigenous method. Only when we come to section D under Regulations (Agenda 1953, p. 83) dealing with "The Church and her obligations to the Native Convert" are we supplied with what may be construed as the MPSC's understanding of the indigenous method. Quite obviously the committee is not confining itself to the strict interpretation of "indigenous method" in line with Rolland Allen and Nevius, who would refer very specifically to the matters of self-support, self-government, and self-propagation, and then more particularly to the question of the number of natives to be employed and salaried by the mission. The MPSC has not chosen to yield to this strict definition of "indigenous method." It evidently did not do this since it had no Scriptural references to offer whereby it might substantiate such a definition as being also Biblically prescribed.

We construe this section under D to be the meaning of the indigenous method as employed by the MPSC, and we assure Synod that we are in wholehearted agreement with this conception of the indigenous method offered by the MPSC.

It is our conviction that if the MPSC had begun with this definition of the indigenous method in fulfillment of the first part of their mandate, namely, to formulate the principles of indigenous mission work, and as a basis of their report, much of the material now included in the report would have been found to be irrelevant to the application of indigenous principles and unnecessary as well. Much of the report as it presently stands has little or nothing to do with the application of these principles.

We wish that attention had been given in the report to the following considerations:

1. The Christian Reformed Church in carrying out its missionary program is itself an *indigenous church*, that is a church that is "self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating." This requires that our church in the mission programs which it has initiated may not too quickly ignore or seek to be rid of its responsibilities to the church it is calling into existence.
2. Our mission efforts require definition of the *indigenous goal* toward which we are striving. Conceivably this goal may differ in various areas of our mission program, as for example the establishment of a native church on the foreign field as contrasted with our New Mexico field. On the foreign field we work toward the establishment of a native church that is separate from our own denomination; it is still a question as to what kind of church should be established on the New Mexico field. Should these churches become a part of the Christian Reformed Church, or should a separate native church emerge as the result of our efforts? The Board has asked our Indian General Conference to study this entire matter of the organization of native churches on the Indian field, with special attention being given to the question whether such churches should be Christian Reformed or not. The Conference has been asked to serve the Board with advice on this in time for the next full Board meeting.
3. We regret that in the light of the above considerations and governed by them we are not given a clear and concise statement of the *indigenous method*, which is in harmony with and consistent with the two points listed above. There is only an implied definition that we have construed to be their construction of the indigenous method in the report, but this is not expressly stated by the MPSC.

Respecting various items in the MPSC report we have the following comments to pass on to Synod to assist in an evaluation of the report:

- I. RESPECTING SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS (Agenda 1953, p. 73 ff.)
  - A. *Evangelism*. It is the opinion of the Board that this section constitutes a good statement of policy but does not offer a clear and specific delineation of indigenous method. We can agree with the statements on evangelism as a general statement of policy.
  - B. *Medical Work*. Again we express ourselves as being in general agreement with this statement, and offer the following two comments:
    1. The MPSC report I, B, 2 reads, "As the healing ministry of Christ and the Apostles was miraculous in character, it does not furnish

Scriptural validation for modern medical missions." We feel it would have been better if the following statement had been made which is taken from the committee's report of last year anent this matter:

"There is no specific command given in the Bible that the Church must engage in medical missions. If the Church is to carry on medical missions on a Biblical basis therefore, the warrant for it will have to be found not in a specific injunction, but in what may be inferred from the Bible on the score of mercy and compassion as peculiar properties of Christ's ambassadors." (Acts, 1952, p. 203, B, 1, a.)

2. Instead of having I, B, 7 read: "The scope of the medical work must be governed by indigenous policies which reckon with native support and participation"; we would have it read: "The scope of the medical work must be governed by indigenous policies, that is, such as reckon with native support and participation."
- C. *Education.* Our sympathies lie with the majority report in the matter of education. We would eliminate from the report of the MPSC their reference to Calvin College in I, C, 9, b. We feel this does not contribute to the argument and beclouds the issue.

## II. RESPECTING REGULATIONS (Agenda 1953, p. 79 ff.)

- A. *The Church and Her Boards.* (p. 80) We express general agreement with the statements here made. Again it ought to be brought out that it is the opinion of the Board that we have here a declaration of some policy suggestions but not a specific definition of indigenous method as it applies to the Church and her boards.
- B. *The Church and Her Missionaries* (p. 80) We have the following comments apart from which we can subscribe to the statement of the MPSC:
  1. **ORDAINED MISSIONARIES.** (II, B, 1) We feel this should read as follows: "Calling churches, if possible, shall make special contributions to the Board toward the salaries of these missionaries, *although the salaries are paid directly by the Board*, and shall have the oversight of their doctrine and life." (The italicized phrase is that which we would have inserted.)
  2. **GENERAL CONFERENCES.**
    - a. *Membership of General Conference* (II, B, 4, a). The MPSC's position reads as follows: "General Conferences shall be constituted as soon as feasible on all mission fields. The Board shall execute the Synodical mission policies and administer the work on the field through the General Con-

ference as its field agency. The membership, organization and activities of these conferences shall be determined *by the General Conference with the approval of the Board.*" This last line which we have italicized we would have read: "*By the Board as set forth in the Organizational Chart.*"

We offer the following objections to this recommendation of the MPSC:

- (1) This recommendation of the MPSC strikes at the very heart of our mission administration and authority. It is contrary to the historical position and development of mission work on the various fields.
  - (2) Should the above recommendation (II, B, 4, a) of the MPSC be accepted it would obviate the necessity of a central managing Board inasmuch as each general conference will have such authority and autonomy in itself that the Board has only to approve its actions.
  - (3) In the Acts of Synod, 1952, p. 67, Art. 135, d, it was decided that: "Further study and further conferences also between the study committee and the Board will probably result in greater unity and more mature advice on this point." Meetings were held briefly with some Board members, but the MPSC never met officially with the Board for such study.
- b. *Organization of General Conference (II, B, 4, b).* The MPSC report reads as follows: "Vitaly necessary for a united understanding of the goals, and for an effective execution of the policies are the following stipulations in organization:" We would make the first stipulation as follows, and continue thus:
- (1) The constituted heads of the departments shall meet in regular session as the Board agency for carrying out and conducting the official business of the mission.
  - (2) The scheduling of periodic meetings open to *all* workers on the field, for purposes of fellowship, instruction, inspiration, and discussion.
  - (3) "The position of an (Executive) Secretary etc.—we would change "Executive" to *Corresponding* Secretary in line with the Organizational Chart.
  - (4) "The constitution of an Executive Committee, composed of the officers of General Conference, which shall give particular attention to executing the policies of the Board and the Conference on the individual posts. To that end, it shall make annual visits to each post, exercise the proper supervision of the work and the personnel, and report



its findings and recommendations to the General Conference. It shall also handle matters demanding attention and action before the next meeting of Conference."

The present provisions of the Organizational Chart provide for this.

3. LOCAL CONFERENCES (II, B, 5). We believe this should read as follows:

a. When in the judgment of general conference there are a sufficient number of workers at a given post, they shall be organized into a local conference. The details or organizations are to be determined by the Board according to the Organizational Chart. (Not by General Conference as the MPSC report has it.)

b. Local conferences are responsible to the Board and General Conference, but the Board shall take up local conference matters only in the case of emergency. The normal way in which local conference matters shall be considered shall be only after they have been acted upon and reported to the Board by General Conference.

C. *The Church and Her Duties to the Nationals.* (p. 82) We believe it should be made clear that the church at large works through the Board as her agency in dealing with the nationals. We offer the following comments on this section:

1. It is to be questioned whether the church should employ any unconverted nationals for religious duties.
2. In order to promote idigeneity in the emerging native church the number of nationals (converted) for religious duties and paid by the Mission should be greatly restricted.

D. *The Church and Her Obligations to the Native Converts.* (p. 83). This section we construe to be the understanding of the MPSC of the indigenous method, and subscribe to this statement.

### III. MINORITY REPORT ON REGULATIONS (p. 84).

The Rev. Harry Boer has, we believe, the correct idea with respect to regulations. We cannot agree with Brother Boer with respect to his construction of the General Conference. We believe that his position ignores the only plausible and feasible organizational set-up that can be followed if our mission program is to be properly executed; good order and regulation demand that the Church through the Synod execute its mission program through the Board. The Board in turn employs the General Conference as its field agency to execute this mission policy and program. The General Conference in turn is above the Local Conference. To make any of these autonomous would be disastrous to the attainment of a well-regulated mission program.

We wish to point out to Synod that this matter is of far broader significance than merely the determination of membership in the General Conference, and really expresses a principle that concerns the authority of the Church, the Synod, and the Board in the prosecution of the missionary task. As to the specific matter of membership on the General Conference, the organizational setup of the Board permits considerable latitude within its frame-work that is sufficient to meet any local or field situation as occasion demands.

IV. RESPECTING THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES TO THE INDIAN MISSION FIELD. (Agenda p. 86 ff.)

We do not here comment on every item contained in the report, but inform Synod of the following:

A. *Respecting the Language Question.* This matter is presently before the Board and the Indian General Conference. We feel that Synod should be cautious in adopting any proposed resolution of the problem at this time, lest this prove to be premature. The Board definitely favors a better language program than is presently followed; it will take time, however, to establish a workable program.

B. *Respecting Native Workers.* The Board employs as many suitable Indian personnel as possible on our field, and informs Synod that presently two of our posts (Nahaschitty and Red Rock) are in charge of Indian brethren. As soon as native churches are organized in these places we envision the employment of these men by the native church.

C. *Respecting the Cook Training School.* We suggest a slight change in the wording of this recommendation (Agenda, p. 88, E.). Instead of declaring this school to be "preferable to all others," we feel it would be better to say: "preferable, but not exclusively."

D. *Respecting the Organization of Native Churches:*

1. *The General Position.* As stated elsewhere, the Board is working toward a full discussion of this matter in order to define the goal toward which we are working.

2. *Rehoboth Church.* We express our agreement with the General Conference on this matter. Their report reads as follows:

"1. The Rehoboth Church should be continued as is so as to hold before our Indians, especially our students, the ultimate ideal toward which the native church is aspiring.

"2. The white-man complexion of the Rehoboth Church naturally will be altered when more and more there is an increase in the number of native employees.

"3. It would be positively unfair to the present large, predominantly white membership to deprive them of the blessings, privileges and

inspiration that an organized church of the Christian Reformed denomination gives them."

3. *Ordination of Natives.* The question of the ordination of our Indian brethren into the ministry will be determined by the establishment of native churches. As soon as such churches are established, it is natural that the best interests of the work would demand that some of their own group should be ordained.

E. *Respecting Financial Matters.*

1. MPSC Report IV, E (P. 88) Cook Training School. We call Synod's attention to the fact that we have been providing some teaching staff to Cook School, and we consider this as our contribution. We believe we should avoid any budgetary commitments to those schools which have any association with our mission program, but offer them assistance by way of loaning our missionaries for teaching if the school should request it, if we have such a missionary available, and if it is agreeable to the Conference and Board.

2. MPSC Report IV, K, 3, c (p. 90) Zuni Tuition. The Board has implemented its own decision anent this matter by requiring the payment of a tuition fee of \$5.00 beginning in September 1953.

3. MPSC Report IV, L (p. 91) Increase in Budget allowance, in building and personnel. In preference to the position of the MPSC we would recommend the following:

a. All further expansion be in terms of the establishment of the native church with a minimum of increase in budgetary outlay for the Indian field.

b. Any increase in budget, building, or personnel would be by decision of Synod only.

4. MPSC IV, M (p. 91): Increased financial responsibility of General Conference. The Board feels that although it would be ideal that the funds be largely distributed on the field and that there be a field treasurer for the Indian field, it entails many difficulties:

a. We are already set up in our present Grand Rapids office with personnel and equipment to attend to the distribution of funds for the Indian Field.

b. It would mean additional office help in the Rehoboth office.

c. It would mean the erection of a new office building since the present Rehoboth office does not allow for expansion for this work.

d. It would mean new homes for additional personnel on the field.

(It should also be noted that in many respects there has been a progressive transfer of financial responsibilities to the field in keeping with a *minimum increase of personnel.*

We realize that the matters before Synod in these reports are of great importance with respect to our mission program. The Board

assures Synod of its prayerful interest that God may through the blessing of the Holy Spirit guide His Church aright.

\* \* \* \*

We also request that Dr. R. S. Wierenga and Rev. Richard De Ridder be permitted to present the position of the Board before Synod and its advisory committee.

The Executive Committee of the  
Christian Reformed Board of Missions

Date: June 4, 1953

UNIFORM PLAN OF ORGANIZATION FOR ALL FIELDS  
UNDER THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD  
OF MISSIONS

(Also referred to as Organizational Chart)

June 8, 1953

I. ALL LOCAL AND GENERAL AGENCIES ARE TO BE DESIGNATED AS "CONFERENCES." If there is to be uniformity in pattern, it certainly ought to be reflected in the names by which the various agencies on the field are designated. In the past there has been on the Indian field a "Zuni Local Conference," a "Rehoboth-Co-ordinating Committee," while on the Nigeria field a "Lupwe and Wukari Staff Meeting." For all practical purposes, these various organizations or agencies are identical in character. That was true even of the "Rehoboth Co-ordinating Committee"; as it dealt with matters peculiar to the post at Rehoboth, even as "Zuni Local Conference" and "Wukari Staff Meeting" dealt with matters peculiar to their respective posts.

II. ALL CONFERENCES ARE TO BE DESIGNATED WITH THE PREFIX OF THEIR FIELD OR POST; as "Indian General Conference" (IGC), "Nigeria General Conference" (NGC), "Wukari Local Conference" (WLC), etc.

III. THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED:

A. Staff—A staff consists of all the regularly employed workers within a given department.

B. Department—A department is a certain division of work related to the evangelistic effort on a given mission field, whether it be pastoral, campwork, educational, native training school, medical or maintenance service.

C. Post—A post is a given locality or territory assigned to a worker or workers, ordained or unordained.

IV. *STAFF MEETINGS.* When there are three or more persons in a department, official staff meetings shall be held to discuss and decide on matters pertaining to the department. Minutes of these meetings shall be submitted to the Local Conference (for action where necessary)

and Local Conference decisions pertaining to the department shall be returned to the staff secretary.

Staff members of a department have, of course, the right of appeal after consultation with the department head.

*V. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF EACH CONFERENCE IS TO BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:*

*A. Local Conference —*

*Membership —*

When there are two or more departments at a given post, a local conference shall be formed, whose membership shall be composed according to the following regulations:

1. If there are three or less departments at a given post, the staff members of these two departments shall constitute Local Conference.
2. If there are more than three departments, the heads of these departments shall constitute Local Conference.

*Functional Activity —*

1. Local Conference shall meet as often as necessary.
2. It shall co-ordinate activities at the post.
3. It shall deal with problems that arise between departmental heads which cannot be settled between the departmental heads concerned, providing there are more than two departments at a post. If the problem cannot be brought to a satisfactory solution by Local Conference, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee of General Conference.
4. It shall discuss and plan mutually matters that shall be brought to the attention of General Conference for its action, such as:
  - a. Spiritual problems and difficulties of their particular post in relation to the field.
  - b. Preparing the budget for the post.
  - c. Requests for departmental expansion, such as: additional personnel, new buildings, building improvements, equipment.

*B. General Conference —*

*Membership —*

When there are two or more posts on a given field, a General Conference shall be formed, whose membership shall consist of the departmental heads, or their acting heads (native or white), of the entire field who are in the employ of the board.

*Functional Activity —*

1. General Conference shall meet at least twice a year.
2. It shall consider and make recommendations on all spiritual and physical matters that pertain to the entire field, or any part thereof.

3. It shall act as agent of the board in all matters that pertain to the relation of the field to government agencies.

4. It shall conduct all business referred to it by the board.

5. It shall consider and take action on all matters submitted by Local Conference or by the head of a post where no Local Conference exists.

6. It shall prepare and submit to the board the budget for the entire field.

7. In dealing with complaints against the board, it shall be guided by the stipulations laid down by the Synod of 1940 (Acts, p. 127).

a. "Complaints of wrongs that find general recognition should be made through this conference. When it fails to take up complaints which some members may harbor, this should be interpreted as an indication that their complaint is not general."

b. "When it happens that the advice of General Conference does not pass in certain instances, it is out of order for individual workers to appeal or press the Conference's advice. A memorandum to Synod, in which the opinion of Conference (or Minorities of said Conference) is stated as advice to Synod, is in order only as a last resort."

8. The actions of General Conference as regards the board are recommendatory; as regards Local Conference and missionaries, its actions shall be considered binding, unless the board rules otherwise.

9. Any member of the General Conference has the right to appeal to the board, providing the proper notification is given and a copy of the appeal is submitted to the General Conference.

## VI. THE OFFICERS OF EACH CONFERENCE SHALL BE:

### A. *Local Conference:*

1. *President.* The office of president shall rotate among the departmental heads.

2. *Secretary.* A secretary shall be elected for a term of one year who shall be eligible for re-election.

The secretary shall submit a copy of the minutes to the board and to the corresponding secretary of General Conference.

### B. *General Conference:*

1. *President.* The office of president shall rotate among the male members of General Conference.

2. *Recording Secretary.* General Conference shall elect a recording secretary for a term of one year, who shall be eligible for re-election. He shall record the minutes.

3. *Corresponding Secretary.* General Conference shall elect a corresponding secretary for a term of three years. He shall be eligible for re-election. His duties shall be:

- a. He shall be responsible for keeping all the records of the conference in good order.
- b. He shall transmit a copy of the minutes of conference to the board.
- c. He shall serve as official link between conference and the board.
- d. He shall prepare the agenda of conference.
- e. Unless delegated to others, he shall serve as the official representative of conference in matters pertaining to native authority and other agencies with which the mission has dealings.

4. *Treasurer.* On foreign fields, a General Conference shall elect its treasurer who shall serve as agent of the board. However, in case where an office worker is employed, said office worker shall automatically serve as treasurer. In either case, the treasurer shall send a quarterly report to the home office.

5. *Executive Committee.* The retiring president, the recording secretary, and their corresponding secretary shall constitute the Executive Committee. This committee shall deal only with matters that cannot wait until the next meeting of Conference.

6. *Mission Visiting Committee.* The General Conference shall appoint a Mission Visiting Committee from among its own membership. The Committee shall be composed of two of the more experienced members elected for a three year term (and eligible for re-election). They shall make an annual inspection tour of all the posts on the field in order to review the state of each mission, and report their findings (and recommendations) to General Conference and to the board. (Allowing for necessary differences between a mission and a church, this work can be carried out in accord with Article 44 of the Church Order, pertaining to Church Visiting.)

2. The request of Indian General Conference that its reactions to the Mission Principles Study Committee report be made available for Synod was favorably acted upon by the executive committee of the board. Copy of this report has been submitted to the Stated Clerk and there are extra copies for the advisory committee of Synod.

B. *Progressive Report.* During the past year our missionaries in the several fields have been blessed generally with good health. The work might go forward and in many instances show special favor of the Lord.

Our missionaries on the Indian field have during the recent years carried on under great handicap in that their work has so continuously been under close scrutiny, and often critical observation. In part that is due to the fact that the field is near at hand and visiting to the field can be carried on easier, and therefore various points of view also come to expression. Then again there has been a great deal of stir

about the "indigenous method" and the "status quo" which gave special prominence to the Indian field as a field of special concern. However, the one matter that is often forgotten is that under such psychological handicap and such discouraging circumstances our missionaries have remained faithful to their tasks. Many another with lesser faith and loyalty would have given up. The steadfastness of our missionaries on the Indian field during the past several years of severe trial is worthy of special note. Then again, where the lack of abounding fruits is present, it also calls for special consideration being given the fact that the Indian mission field labors under a multiplicity of problems. Romanism, Mormonism, American paganism, and shifting governmental policies have made the approach to the Indian a rugged one. The statistics that might be marshalled to the fore with reference to the countable results in conversions for the past year are not exciting, although there are some that can be tabulated. For the year 1952 we have a listing of 26 adult additions to our rolls and 42 additions by way of infant baptism. The Indians themselves, as far as the mission chapels are concerned (this excludes the Rehoboth hospital and school), contributed about \$3,662.39. The bright spot on the Indian mission field today is the development of prospects for leadership amongst those who have been receiving special training. Paul Redhouse and Alfred Becenti have been going to school to prepare themselves for the work among the Navahos. At Cook Training School there are a few from our Zuni area who are preparing themselves for spiritual leadership at Zuni. We have one young man from Zuni who expects to go to Calvin this fall and will commence his training, hopefully looking forward to full seminary training. During this summer there will be teams of Indians, both from among the Zunis and Navahos, going out to visit their own people and bringing them the gospel. Ten of our mission stations are in the "Believers Roll" stage; three in the "Mission Committee" stage; and Rehoboth is an organized congregation.

Our Japan field has been blessed in that both the Rev. E. A. Van Baak and Rev. Henry Bruinooge have completed their language study and are ready to commence their work full time. The first two years were given primarily to language study. Mr. Van Baak has now located in Suwa and Mr. Bruinooge is at this time settling in Kofu. Already there is evidence of response to their work and evangelistic meetings that are conducted show promising interest on the part of the people.

In South India the governmental restrictions have not halted the work. It has meant, evidently, a concerted effort to train natives for leadership and it is thought that this may even prove to be a blessing in that it will conduce to more native participation in the work.

Our Nigerian field is also pressing to expand. The workers have been few as compared to the work to be done. There is the call for



more help and we need more missionaries who can qualify for the service. The prospect of rapid growth seemed to face us last year as we were invited to take over a larger part of the Tiv mission of the Dutch Reformed Church. However, while the invitation still stands, the current point of view is that such a development must be effected very gradually. But we can report that the native church in Nigeria is growing and the number of natives participating in the work too is growing apace.

On the Island of Formosa with its teeming multitudes we have one worker, Miss Lillian Bode. She is surrounded with challenges for work and in every writing indicates the greatness of the opportunity in that island and the need for more workers. She is closely associated with the missionaries of the Othodox Presbyterian Church and we appreciate the willingness of these brethren to counsel with her. We are looking forward to further reports from them as well as from her. We do know that they are eager to have us enter Formosa in greater strength. It is well known that the island of Formosa has currently become a veritable hot-bed for missions since the expectation is that when once the mainland of China opens the converts from Formosa will spread as living firebrands to all parts of China from whence they have come. If there be truth to this expectation it can be understood that it is the strategic spot for oriental missions as far as future China is concerned.

### III. ADDITIONAL AND MODIFIED BUDGET REQUESTS.

Since our annual board meeting, at which all budget requests were considered, some pressing needs have appeared from both our Sudan Mission field and our Indian mission field which we humbly ask Synod to consider.

The pressing need for expansion as to medical and educational work on our Sudan mission field, the necessity of separating delivery room from surgery at our hospital at Rehoboth, and the extremely crowded conditions of our single workers at Rehoboth make it necessary that we submit the following additional requests:

#### OPERATING EXPENSE FOR 1953:

Sudan — Salary for woman teacher replacing Mr. F. Volkema.....	\$ 1,000.00
Travel expense for teacher .....	1,500.00
Travel expense for Dr. H. Gray.....	3,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 5,500.00

#### FROM SPECIAL GIFTS FUND FOR 1953:

Rehoboth — Additional for hospital .....	\$10,000.00
Remodeling stone house.....	1,750.00
Sudan — Car for Educational Advisor .....	2,750.00
Car for Dr. Gray .....	2,750.00
	<hr/>
	\$17,250.00

OPERATING EXPENSE FOR 1954:

Sudan*—Salary for woman teacher replacing Mr. F. Volkema.....	\$ 2,400.00
Salary for Dr. H. Gray.....	4,800.00
Salary for two nurses .....	4,800.00
Travel expenses, two nurses .....	3,000.00
	\$15,000.00

\*It should be noted that because it is expected that supporting churches or groups will be found for the additional personnel, the net quota is only slightly increased.

Sudan — New Hospital — ¼ of total cost.....	\$25,000.00
Three bicycles .....	169.20
	\$25,169.20

The following Summary of Budget Requests should now replace the summary as found on the bottom of page 161 of the Agenda:

OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

	Recommended for 1954
INDIAN .....	\$341,557.85
JAPAN .....	82,300.00
SOUTH INDIA .....	74,916.00
SUDAN .....	138,775.80
Late requests .....	15,000.00
ADMINISTRATION — GENERAL .....	65,025.00
	\$717,574.65
Less estimated salary receipts.....	87,000.00
	\$630,574.65
Figuring 41,045 families, we request a quota of.....	\$ 15.40

ADDITIONAL NECESSARY EXPENDITURES FOR 1953

OPERATING

Total (see page 27, 1954 budget requests).....	\$15,866.00	
Late requests .....	5,500.00	\$ 21,366.00

SPECIAL GIFTS

Total (See page 27, 1954 budget requests).....	\$21,215.00	
Late requests .....	17,250.00	\$ 38,465.00

REQUESTS FOR SPENDING FROM SPECIAL GIFTS FUND FOR 1954

Total (see page 28, 1954 budget requests).....	\$49,400.00	
Late requests .....	25,169.20	\$ 74,569.20

IV. THE INDIAN FIELD

A. *Rehoboth Hospital.* For some time the hospital needs have been a problem of serious concern to our board as well as to the staff in New Mexico. A committee was appointed by the board to visit our Rehoboth Hospital and confer with the doctor and the medical staff

concerning the hospital needs. This committee carried out its assignment and also had contact with Mr. Leon duFlon, who is head of the hospital licensing authorities in New Mexico. From Mr. duFlon we learned that our hospital had been given a conditional license in 1952. This was done to make sure that certain corrections would be made in the hospital both as to facilities and procedures. In January 1953 a full license was granted to our hospital, but this was accompanied by a letter indicating that there were thirteen items which required specific attention. You will observe that all of the items, excepting the last one, are very minor matters either from an expense or a construction point of view. The last item, namely, that of the new operating room needs some special attention. These are the items referred to:

1. Steps should be taken to provide 30 sq. ft. per bed in the pediatrics department.
2. From the point of view of good hospital technique, the formula room is in the wrong location.
3. Oxygen tanks are improperly stored and should at least be fastened to a wall by means of a steel chain, or preferably located in a space outside of the building and wheeled in on a portable cart when use is required.
4. Electrical switches and outlets in the operating room should be explosion-proof, if said switches and outlets are located five feet or less above the finished floor level.
5. Provide a six-volt lantern for emergency stand-by in the surgery department
6. All waste receptacles should be provided with a suitable cover.
7. It is improper that the same nurse is used for isolation cases and new-born babies in the nursery.
8. Any nurse leaving an eight-hour shift should be required to sign a record showing the hours she has been on duty.
9. Any nurse should sign her name on a record after the administration of narcotics to patients.
10. Records should be more completely kept of patients. Records should include case progress notes, charts, temperatures, etc.
11. All nurses working in connection with the nursery should have throat cultures taken.
12. An analysis of the water supply as to its bacteria content should be prepared and furnished.
13. Major surgery should not be conducted in the same room utilized for obstetrics.

In order that we may properly attend to the needs of the hospital and meet the state requirements for full license next year, we ask Synod for permission to spend \$10,000 from our Special Gifts budget above the \$15,000 already allowed by Synod in 1951 for necessary alterations to separate nursery and delivery room from Surgery (Acts 1951, p. 60-61). It is understood that if Synod gives us permission to proceed that all alterations will be made in consultation with Dr. Louis H. Bos and the Indian General Conference.

B. *Rehoboth Property.* In the agenda, report was given of the sale of a piece of property to the El Paso Natural Gas Company (Agenda p. 163-4). Subsequent to this sale the executive committee was approached once again by this firm and asked to sell a piece of ground, about one acre in area, which would enable the company to build a roadway approach across the Santa Fe Railroad tracks from U. S. Highway 66. An offer was made for this piece of ground of \$4,000. After receiving advice from the Indian General Conference and from impartial appraisers, this piece of ground was sold to the El Paso Natural Gas Co. for \$7,537.50. The sale contract in this instance stipulates that the land shall be used for no other purpose than for roadway.

C. *Lodging of Missionaries at Rehoboth.*

1. Additional house. For the past several years there has been a shortage of dwelling space at Rehoboth and we have had a married man with his family living in one of the cabins which had been built some years ago and is too small for a family. The board feels it is necessary that we have another house at Rehoboth for a married man and family, and requests Synod to permit the erection of such a home at a cost of \$11,750.00 to be taken from Special Gifts in 1953. The cabin can then be used to house single workers.

2. Stone House. The Rehoboth Local Conference has called attention to an old stone house which is on our Rehoboth grounds and can be altered to become a dwelling for three single persons. The board requests permission from Synod to alter this house to make it suitable for three workers at a cost of \$1,750.00 to be taken from Special Gifts for 1953.

V. SUDAN FIELD

A. *Dr. Herman Gray.* We are happy to report that Dr. Herman Gray, a member of our Alameda Christian Reformed Church and a specialist in the field of leprosy, volunteered for missionary service to Nigeria. The board referred this matter for judgment to our Nigerian General Conference, which in turn conferred with the Dutch Reformed Church Mission which also has a considerable work amongst lepers. The executive committee has already satisfied itself concerning the spiritual and doctrinal positions of Dr. Gray and heartily recommends him to Synod for missionary service under our board as outlined by the Nigerian General Conference:

1. That Dr. Herman Gray be appointed as a leprosy medical doctor to work in the Benue Province in consultation and cooperation with the Dutch Reformed Church Mission. That besides supervising leprosy work in our Nigerian mission field, he also be seconded to the Dutch Reformed Church Mission central leprosy settlement at Mkar.

2. That as Mkar settlement has all the needed facilities, he be stationed at that post. Steps will be taken to obtain the funds for a residence for him from the government.

3. There is every reason to believe that these funds from the government will be forthcoming after April 1, 1954. In the meantime the Board will loan the sum of \$2800.00 for this purpose. Mr. M. P. Loedolff, O.B.E., General Administrator of the Settlement, is agreeable to arrange for the building of the residence as soon as funds are on hand.

4. While it is understood that Dr. Gray is on loan to the Dutch Reformed Church Mission for such work as shall be mutually arranged with the medical leprosy staff, his salary and furlough travel expenses will be paid by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

5. Dr. Gray shall be provided with a car since he is likely to have frequent and extensive journeys. Attempts will be made to obtain a car from the government, but should they fail, the board will provide a suitable vehicle. The expenses for journeys are usually paid from government or Native Administration funds.

Efforts will be made to secure a supporting church for Dr. Gray.

B. *Hospital at Lupwe.* For many years there has been the expectation that we would eventually expand our medical mission service in Nigeria to the point of having a hospital. With the arrival of Dr. Roy Davis this past spring and the expected arrival in Nigeria of Dr. Joyce Branderhorst this coming summer, the needs for further medical facilities came to a head. The Nigerian General Conference served our board with advice in this matter and recommended the following program:

1. That we begin with a 30-40 bed hospital.

2. That the hospital be in the general Lupwe-Takum area and that the committee appointed be given the power to choose the exact site after investigation.

3. That the Board send two nurses as soon as possible and that one of them be primarily for surgery.

4. That the committee investigate the possibility of seeking a government grant without a board of governors involved and without involving any curtailment of the spiritual ministry.

5. Dr. Davis called attention to the promise of the Board that he be given a co-worker for the spiritual side of the medical work. The African church is to be contacted on this matter.

After due consideration of the proposals of the Nigerian General Conference, it was decided:

1. That we approve the building of the hospital as proposed by Nigerian General Conference.

2. That we seek synodical approval for this.
3. That we seek permission from Synod to go to our churches for special gifts for this purpose and that we build the hospital as income permits.
4. That we approve of our Sudan Mission's request to seek government aid for this project.

*Grounds:* a. The total cost is to be approximately \$100,000 and distributed over 4 years. Part of this may come from the British government and none of the cost is to come from quotas.

- b. Considering the number of people the hospital is to serve this is a modest figure.

We hereby request permission from Synod to proceed in line with the above decision.

#### VI. LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Representation at Synod: Matters in general, Rev. H. J. Evenhouse, Dr. E. Y. Monsma. Agenda p. 151. Financial matters, Dr. R. S. Wierenga, Agenda p. 151. Organizational Chart, Dr. R. S. Wierenga, Agenda p. 151. Answer to M.P.S.C. Report, Dr. Wierenga, Rev. R. De Ridder, Suppl. agenda p. 9.
2. Members-at-Large: Change in Mission Order Art. I and II. Agenda p. 150 Nominations. Agenda p. 150, Suppl. Agenda, p. 1.
3. Annuities. Agenda p. 157.
4. Reformation Translation Fellowship. Agenda p. 157.
5. Budget Requests. Agenda p. 160-162, Suppl. Agenda p. 14-15.
6. Indian General Conference representative. Agenda p. 162.
7. Indonesia. Agenda p. 168.
8. Sudan delegation. Agenda p. 170.
9. Constitution. Agenda p. 170-172.
10. Mission Principles Study Committee Report. Suppl. Agenda p. 2-12.
11. Rehoboth Hospital. Suppl. Agenda p. 15-16.
12. Lodging of missionaries at Rehoboth. Suppl. Agenda p. 16-17.
13. Dr. Herman Gray. Suppl. Agenda p. 17.
14. Hospital at Lupwe. Suppl. Agenda p. 17-18.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS

HENRY J. EVENHOUSE, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 26**

(Arts. 146, 156)

**LABOR POLICY****(Majority Report)****1. OUR MANDATE.***a. Materials upon which it is based.*

Overtures 5, 6, 7, 16, 17. pp. 83-87, 518, 519, 523, 524. Acts 1952.

*b. Contents.*

The Committee "is to give careful study to, and make recommendations concerning the Labor Policy Problem which the Church has encountered in awarding contracts for denominational projects. If possible, it is to report to the Synod of 1953." Acts 1952.

*c. Interpretation.*

The Mandate is self-explanatory. It requires:

- (1) recognition that a specific labor policy problem exists.
- (2) careful study by the committee.
- (3) determination of a right solution to it.
- (4) a report to Synod of 1953 with proper recommendations.

**2. A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED.***a. Where was it encountered?*

The Problem was encountered by the denominational Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary in the awarding of contracts for the construction of buildings on the Calvin Campus.

*b. What is the Problem encountered?*

The Problem encountered was and still is this:

What is the most equitable way of obtaining bids and awarding contracts for denominational projects, if we are to act in harmony with the Church's pronouncements on Labor Organizations and membership in them together with the specific instruction of Synod to denominational Boards "to do everything possible to protect the rights of those who have conscientious objections to membership in Neutral Labor Organizations, while at the same time endeavoring to apply the economic principles of competitive bidding and efficient workmanship to protect the denominational financial interests?"

*c. What difficulties are involved in resolving the Problem?*

The difficulties encountered arise from the fact that in attempting to apply the economic principle of competitive bidding and the demand for good workmanship, the Boards must deal with both Open and Closed Shop bidders, unless bidding is limited to Open Shop bidders.

If bidding is limited to contractors who operate on an Open Shop

basis, the bids may or may not be higher than if bidding is open to all qualified bidders. No one can tell beforehand. In some cases the bid might be higher since Closed Shop contractors were awarded the last two contracts.

If the bidding, however, is not limited to Open Shop bidders, Boards face the possibility of eliminating possible low-bid contractors or sub-contractors because Closed Shop Contractors will not work with them on the same job.

In attempting a solution to these difficulties the Board must face certain questions, such as:

(1) Is it right to open bidding to all competent contractors regardless of their labor policy and then be compelled to award the contract to a Closed Shop bidder, if he is the successful low-bidder, when the Board knows before-hand that this will eliminate the conscientious objectors from an opportunity to work on the job?

(2) If the conscientious objector is excluded by this method of obtaining and awarding bids can we say that his rights have been properly protected as per the instructions of Synod?

(3) Should not the Boards supplement the pronouncements and instructions which Synod has made to our people concerning the development of a Christian labor consciousness and the need for corporate action, by exercising greater care in obtaining bids and awarding them where Synod has jurisdiction?

(4) Should not the principle of conscientious objection have priority over the economic principle of competitive bidding when these two clash as they have heretofore?

*d. How has the Board of Trustees attempted to resolve the Problem?*

The Board of Trustees has recognized that there is a problem. (cf. Acts 1950. p.28) The Board after due deliberation attempted to resolve the Problem upon the basis of the economic principle of competitive bidding to all qualified contractors regardless of their labor policy. This resulted in awarding the contracts for the last two buildings to Closed Shop contractors.

In determining upon this solution the Board felt that it could not accede to the request of the C. L. A., that it include a protective clause in the specifications to the effect that the contractor would not be allowed to discriminate between applicants for work regardless of their union or non-union affiliation.

*e. What was the effect of this attempted solution?*

(1) Its effect upon the awarding of contracts.

The first of the three contracts entered into by the Board of Trustees on this basis was awarded to an Open Shop contractor employing for



the most part C. L. A. Labor. The second and third of these three contracts were awarded to contractors who employ members of Neutral Labor organizations and who have Closed Shop agreements with them.

(2) Its effect upon the Church at large.

In the first instance there was no public dissatisfaction with the awarding of the contracts. No complaints or overtures appeared at Synod.

In the second and third instances a sentiment of dissatisfaction was aroused in various parts of the Church. This sentiment came to expression in the Overtures of several Classes to Synod. Synod was overtured: to do more to protect the rights of the men who have conscientious objections against membership in Neutral Labor Organizations; to declare itself in favor of an Open Shop Policy on its building projects; to support its own pronouncements in re labor and labor organizations. (cf. Overtures 1950-1952).

(3) Its effects upon several Synods as result of the Overtures.

*Synod of 1950* "expressed regret that the Board of Trustees in the awarding of the Library contract did not concern itself sufficiently to guarantee equal rights to all workers irrespective of membership or non-membership in any particular Labor Organization." This same Synod drew up an instruction to the Boards concerning this very matter for future action. "In awarding the Boardal contracts for the construction of buildings the Board of Trustees, and also all other denominational Boards, shall exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with the so-called Neutral Labor Organizations." (cf. Acts 1950. p. 28)

*Synod of 1951* adopted a recommendation of the Board as follows: "This bid is requested with the understanding that if the circumstances permit or demand other organized or unorganized labor can be employed than the labor organization with which the contractor stands related." (cf. Acts 1950. p. 50)

*Synod of 1952* rescinded this clause because "The Clause is so ambiguous that no one can possibly determine what the circumstances may be spoken of in this clause." (cf. Acts 1952. p. 84)

Synod also thereupon appointed the present committee to seek a solution.

3. WHAT PRINCIPLES MUST BE KEPT IN MIND TO GIVE DIRECTION FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AND AVOIDANCE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED?

a. *We must consider Synod's pronouncements concerning Labor Organizations. Among others consult Acts 1943, 1946, 1947.*

(1) Concerning the development of a positive Christian Labor consciousness.

Synod has throughout the years repeatedly affirmed and reaffirmed the need for development of Christian Labor Organizations in various parts of the country and of the need for cooperation between such organizations. It has repeatedly called upon the ministers and the consistories to instruct the membership of the Church in Christian labor practices and to cultivate the development of Christian Labor consciousness and to encourage the membership to give effect to it by means of corporate action. It has repeatedly recommended the C.L.A. for moral and financial support.

(2) Concerning Neutral Labor Organizations.

Synod has refrained from denouncing any so-called Neutral Labor Union by name. It has also not specifically declared membership in such Unions incompatible with Church membership. It does warn against membership in Unions which carry on unchristian practices. It calls upon the Consistories to exercise discipline in cases where this exists.

*b. We must consider Synod's instruction to the Boards.*

It is very evident from the instruction of Synod to its Boards and its expression of regret concerning one of the Board's actions in this matter that Synod is concerned to do everything possible to protect the conscientious objector to Neutral Labor Organizations and to grant to all an equal opportunity to work on its projects.

*c. We must consider that Synod has endorsed, fostered and recommended Christian Labor Organizations and membership in them, but it has never endorsed or recommended membership in Neutral Unions. It has tolerated these but never promoted them.*

In all of its pronouncements and instructions Synod has placed the emphasis upon enunciating Christian principles and upon cultivating and protecting the Christian conscience. It has not expressed itself on the Open or Closed Shop.

#### 4. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

Synod should adopt the following recommendations as offering the most equitable solution to the Problem which the denominational Board has encountered in its construction reports.

*a. Synod adheres to the decision of 1950. Art. 85, 4.*

"Synod decides that in awarding eventual future contracts for construction projects, the Board of Trustees and other denominational Boards, shall exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with so-called Neutral Unions."

## Grounds:

(1) Synod should lend support to the Christian Conscience which it has cultivated by means of its own pronouncements and instructions. It should do this in places where it has immediate jurisdiction.

(2) Synod should sustain its own pronouncements re the need of fostering Christian Organizations, if they are to become truly effective.

*b. Synod decides upon the following procedure to effectively safeguard the rights of its people on its own building projects.*

(1) The denominational Boards shall ask for bids from qualified and reliable contractors, with the understanding expressly stated in the conditions of the contract that:

No contractor or subcontractor shall be prevented from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any labor organization.

No individual shall be excluded from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any Union.

## Ground:

Synod should not allow any organization, which refuses to recognize the Christian convictions of its membership re labor organizations, to impose its will upon our people in positions where Synod has the authority and the power to prevent it.

Past experience teaches that such an instruction is necessary to make the decision (under "a" above) effective.

(2) In the event that no bids are received on this basis (pt [1] ) or the bids received are exorbitant Synod grants the Boards the right to erect buildings on a non-competitive basis under proper supervision.

(3) If the above procedure (2) in the judgment of the Board, is inadvisable, it shall present the matter with its recommendations to the following Synod.

## Ground:

There must be protection against exorbitant bidding as well as against discrimination against conscientious objectors.

*c. Synod decides that only in such places where the above-mentioned procedure cannot be followed a Board is permitted to follow another labor policy. In such cases it should be made clear to the Church at large that there is no other alternative.*

Signed

PETER HOLWERDA

H. J. RYSKAMP

JOSEPH GRITTER

WILLIAM VAN REES

P. S. Mr. C. Van Valkenburg has reserved the right to send in a Minority Report.

**(Minority Report)**

## I. THE MANDATE

A. *Materials* — Overtures 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, pp. 83-87, 518, 519, 523, 524 of the Acts of 1952.

B. *Scope* — The Committee is to give careful study to and make recommendations concerning the labor policy problem which the Church has encountered in the awarding of contracts for denominational building projects.

C. *Interpretation* —

1. to recognize the grievance of some brethren that they are not allowed to work (if they so desired) on buildings being constructed under the control and direction of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary.

2. to study all the items that go to make up the problem.

3. to diligently seek a recommended answer for Synod.

## II. AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM.

A. *Background*

1. Synod has been repeatedly urged in overtures to direct the Board to let building contracts to only those contractors who will actually be able to permit non-union workers, members of unions other than neutral unions, as well as neutral union members to work on the job. The request is that a purely open shop exist between the successful bidder (contractor) and his employees. Synod has refrained from granting the specific guarantees requested.

2. Synod has stated that in letting the contract to an American Federation of Labor union organization contractor no specific Synodical ruling has been violated by the Board. At that time Synod had virtually the same issue before them as now. (Acts 1950 p. 28)

3. Synod has urged the Board to exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with the so-called neutral labor organizations. (Acts 1950 p. 28) Synod has established rules or principles that apply to membership in unions and its enunciation of Scriptural principles may be applied to every Christian.

4. Synod, to date, has refrained from being an arbiter of economic organization problems. It has not taken a stand against the union shop method of organization. Synod has not taken a stand against the neutral union as such. The challenges for the Christian member of the neutral unions have been pointed up by Synod.

5. Synod has urged both moral and financial support of a Christian labor association. It has also urged the general principles tending to Christian labor consciousness. These are applicable to all Christians.

6. The Christian Labor Association has become recognized as a competent union and has qualified as the bargaining unit in numerous instances of employer-employee relations. It as well as the neutral unions are permitted to agree to a union shop with the employer under the Federal statutes.

7. There are Christian brethren and members of the Christian Reformed Church employed on the campus building projects. These men desire to use the union shop method in their dealings with the employer. This is done under the neutral union affiliation.

8. In the past the Board has let contracts to both open shop and union shop employer contractors. The Board states that it lets the contracts after due consideration is given to the whole problem involved in each building contract.

*B. The Pertinent Issues in the Mandate.*

1. to seek an answer to the objections of our fellow members that they are not always permitted to work, if they so desired, on college building projects when undertaken by contractors under union shop agreements with their employees because the brethren have conscientious convictions against joining a union which supports the union shop and is neutral as far as Christian basis and objective is concerned. (It has not been asserted that the brethren have been without work)

2. to determine whether Synod should give a directive to the Board that the governmentally-sanctioned union shop (which gives the authority to require the employer to exclude, after 30 days, from the job those employees who are unwilling to become affiliated with the lawfully constituted bargaining unit) is an anti-Christian labor method and whether the championed open shop is *the* Christian method of economic organization in the field of employer-employee relations.

3. to determine what class of building contractor the Board should deal with, dependent on whether his labor supply is tied to him with a union shop or open shop contract. (This indirectly determines whether the Board shall deal with the CLA or a neutral union contractor.)

III. RECOMMENDATION.

A. That Synod should refrain from making a directive to the Board regarding the right or wrong method of economic organization in employer-employee relations as a part of the contract involved in building projects and should refrain from stipulating a procedure that makes distinctions in labor union affiliations based on the mode of membership organization.

IV. SUPPORTING THOUGHTS.

A. The writer has been unable to find Scripture that demands the open shop or forbids the union shop. (We assume the legitimacy of

unions of employees, collective bargaining established by contract, and statutory control over the same) The Scriptures, throughout, call the child of God to effect righteousness over against evil.

B. Article 30 of the Church Order states in part — "In these (ecclesiastical assemblies such as Synod) ecclesiastical matters only shall be transacted and that in an ecclesiastical manner."

1. In the Acts of 1937, Art. 17, p. 11, it is declared "that political, social, and economic questions are ecclesiastical matters only when doctrinal and ethical issues of sufficient moment are involved *according to the Word of God and our standards.*"

2. To assert an exception to this principle and demand that Synod give the requested directive would lead the Church into the error of totalitarian action and make her the arbiter of the fine details of temporal life. Synod should find a clear spiritual issue at stake before it makes a commitment. The grievance of the brethren is not that clear as we shall endeavor to show.

C. Synod constituting the churches is empowered in its organic structure to accomplish the matters of the Church.

1. The instituted church cannot act authoritatively beyond its own domain. The nature of the method of economic organization in employer-employee relations is not within its province of action. If it were, then every detail would have to be established and every variation thereafter would have to be redetermined by another Synod.

2. The Synod is not permitted to enact rules that allegedly guarantee equal rights in the economic sphere. The same rules could easily effect an inequality under a slight change of circumstances.

3. Nothing the Synods have done demands that the next Synod violate the clear limitation of the Church Order.

4. To assert that the requested condemnation of the union shop method and the consequent disapproval of the neutral union as such would be a separate act and would apply only to the denominational building problem would do injustice to the requirement that Synod's decision should be a guide in all similar situations. Every Christian employer and employee should feel bound to the pronouncement. Is the spiritual issue clear that the requested universal disposition is presently in order? We do not think so. Should Synod ban the neutral union and the union shop in this fashion? This is contrary to all past Synodical action.

5. Can Synod forget the Christian who has a firm conviction that he has been called to testify and does exert an influence in the midst of the world where economic organization is affected on the union shop basis? What would Synod do for the man who has a conviction

against joining any union? What would Synod do for the Christian who refuses to work on one of the college buildings because he has a conviction against working under the arrangement established by the AFL, bargaining unit? (This situation would result if the AFL would allow unaffiliated or CLA men on the job as was required of the Board). These questions point up the acute involvement for Synod once it ventures into this field. Which conscientious conviction will receive the priority?

D. Part of the grievance revealed in the Overtures is that the union shop requirement under which the successful bidder is operating keeps the brethren from working because they could not conscientiously join the neutral union. The very protection given the employee under such an arrangement is the protection the brethren will need to maintain their acquired status as a bargaining unit when an increase in the number of employees brought to the job endangers the same. How else can a bargaining unit of Christian employees hope to maintain itself in the face of numerical superiority?

1. The union shop has been developed as a tool of labor organization over against the employer to accomplish a just testimony in the disposition of economic means and the profits of human effort.

2. The union shop is compulsory membership in the union which has gained the rating of bargaining unit. This became the natural end of collective bargaining. Inquiry shows that employers desire the union shop if there is to be a union at all.

3. By agreeing to a union shop the employer is permitted and is required to deal with a unit representing *all* employees. The open shop operating with a union bargaining unit does not give the employer the right nor the opportunity to deal with the portion of his unaffiliated or non-bargaining-unit employees. Neither do these employees have the freedom to bargain over working conditions. Full freedom on the job demands the abolition of all collective bargaining and the outlawing of all unions. Experience has shown that failure to achieve a balance by some form of collective bargaining has fostered inequalities.

4. It can reasonably be considered that Christian unions would want the protection of the union shop. This may not be the literal stand but it is the present spirit where they are the bargaining unit.

E. Another part of the grievance going to make up the problem is the conviction against joining the neutral organizations. As previously pointed out there are men of conviction at work in such organizations.

1. The neutral organization affords an opportunity for Christian thought and action. Sane and fair methods of bargaining may be the Christian contribution. Possibly more members in our Church, other

than laborers only, are to blame for the failure to do more than has been done in the realm of labor relations.

2. The broad sphere of action where guidance is so sorely needed is a real challenge to the Christian worker. He needs the help of his fellow church members to gain knowledge and technique to fulfill his task. We feel that the demand of the objecting brethren is a demand that all Christians withdraw from economic associations that are not Christian.

3. To date Synod has not condemned membership in any union but has given the standards for disciplinary action by the Consistory where the member is guilty of unchristian acts in his union.

F. The Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary is a body of Christians charged to consider all values in their task of operating the School.

1. They are bound to exercise a Christian discretion in every problem. If they are guilty of unchristian acts they should be disciplined by their Consistories.

2. The construction contracts they must consider and enter into involve many considerations which no bystander can judge. The contract is made with the contractor (employer) and not the employees. The contractor is committed to his productive unit and its union affiliation.

3. The issue of labor policy is one strictly for the Board to whom has been delegated the whole responsibility of operating the School and raising the necessary structures. To merely say that Synod has immediate jurisdiction begs the question. The study of the limitation contained in the foregoing discloses that Synod does not have the authority to make a rule on a debatable point of economic life.

4. Though as we contend Synod does not have such authority to grant the requests of the objecting brethren these men are not precluded from effectively persuading the Board to give heed to the study and discussion and thereby sharpen their evaluation of the problem. All the members can then rest assured that all has been done that may be done.

G. We hope that one thing has been made clear. The constitutional limitation on Synod's authority stated in the Church Order should be recognized. The complicated issues of labor relations, including the basis of organization of employees in unions, are not so easily labeled nor are they so clear in their spiritual implications that Synod should be asked to rule on a separate item. We believe this applies to denominational building projects.

CORNELIUS VAN VALKENBURG



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 26-A**  
(Arts. 146, 156)

**LABOR UNIONS**

Dear Brethren:

I have taken note of the overture of Classis Chatham in regard to the neutral labor union question addressed to this Synod. Because of my experience in the labor field and my acquaintance with the situation in Canada — having helped to organize the C.L.A. there — I would like to submit some observations and recommendations.

First of all, Synod should be aware of the fact that the overture of Classis Chatham has come up out of the same problem which the Church has faced in the U.S.A. during four or five decades at least. It would hardly be correct to say that it has been solved here, due in part at least to the fact that there never has been among our people here a real strong conviction concerning the need of separate Christian organizations. In Canada the situation is much more hopeful. The immigrants who arrived there during the last five years also ran headlong into the force of the AFL and CIO. They soon recognized that these organizations were not for them, and especially those who had been active in Christian organizations in the Netherlands are thoroughly dissatisfied. They began working in the direction of a Christian labor movement. In Ontario alone some 15 locals have already been established.

But they met opposition too, of course, and much lukewarmness, particularly on the part of those who have been in Canada a long time already. And they found that membership in organizations which they consider to be thoroughly unchristian is being tolerated by the Church. The official position of the Church was not clear cut enough. Misinterpretations of the Church's official position by the editor of the Reformed Journal added to the confusion. (See Reformed Journal of June 1952 where the Rev. Stob contends that the Church blesses membership in the AFL as well as in the CLA.)

Without committing myself to all the overture of Classis Chatham contains I will say that on the whole the principles expounded in it are sound. Synod must welcome such an evident desire on the part of the Canadian brethren to be separate from that which is sinful and to take positive action in the direction of organized Christian activity. That attitude and desire must not be discouraged in any way.

I am convinced also that there is a better opportunity for development of Christian action in Canada than there has been in the USA for some time. Neutral organizations there have not attained the power they have here. They do not exert great political influence. The Canadian parliamentary system being different, there is more hope there for minority representation and eventual change of laws that are now not favorable to separate minority organizations. I believe that if the Church will give proper guidance and support Calvinism may come to expression in Canada after a decade or two to an extent that we may never reach here. By all means encourage that.

For all these reasons I believe that Synod ought to give as clear-cut a statement as possible in reply to the Chatham overture. I submit the following for your consideration:

(1) Synod re-affirms the decisions of the Synods of 1943, 1945 and 1946 concerning membership in neutral organizations and declares:

(a) That by neutral organizations in which membership is permissible Synod definitely had in mind organizations which, although they may not have commitment to the authority of God and obedience to His word definitely stated in their Constitutions, in their conduct and common practices give evidence of assent to such authority and the guidance of the word of God.

(b) It is not correct to assume that since previous Synods did not specifically name the AFL and the CIO, silent consent was thereby given to membership in those organizations. The same test of acceptable neutrality stated in the foregoing paragraph, (a) above, applies to them with equal force as it does to other organizations.

(c) Synod declares that loyalty to the Christ and the word of God demands separation from any organization, including the AFL and CIO, which in its common practices is guilty of any or all of the following sinful practices and persists in them in spite of protests against them.

1. The taking of an oath or pledge that the member place his loyalty to the organization above all other affiliations.
2. Outright refusal to be bound by the word of God when a contemplated or taken action is clearly in violation of it.
3. Desecration of the Christian Sabbath by holding meetings or allowing unnecessary work on that day.
4. Refusal to allow employment of conscientious objectors who cannot with a clear conscience before God join the organization.
5. The use of intimidation, coercion and other forms of persecution to compel workers to join.
6. The use of the boycott or other interferences to compel an employer to recognize an organization that does not—according to the laws governing such matters—represent his employees.
7. The use of the strike weapon in violation of law, or when its use endangers life and the public welfare and neutral arbitration is available.
8. The use of or assenting to the use of violence in labor disputes.
9. Any other practice that is clearly a violation of the laws of God.

(d) Synod further declares that these decisions apply with equal force, wherever they have bearing, to organizations other than labor unions, in the social sphere.

(e) Synod urges once again, in view of the fact that in general the so-called neutral organizations are of such a character that they fail to meet the requirements set by the Church for approval of membership in them, that Christian business men, professional men and laboring men, put forth every effort to establish Christian organizations that are definitely committed in their constitutions and practices to recognition of the authority of God and obedience to His word.

(2) In regard to (a) the question of ecclesiastical discipline applied to those who refuse to break with organizations that have given clear evidence of their un-Christian character, and (b) in regard to encouragement to be given by the Church to the formation of Christian organizations through the Ministers and consistories and Classes, Synod re-affirms the decisions taken by the Synods of 1943, 1945 and 1946.

Respectfully submitted,

Member of the Boston Square,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, Christian  
Reformed Church

Joseph Gritter  
1330 Dickinson Street, S.E.  
Grand Rapids 7, Michigan

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 27**

(Art. 82)

**CHURCH ORDER REVISION COMMITTEE**

To the Synod of 1953

DEAR BRETHREN:

The revision of the Church Order in co-operation with our sister churches was proposed to the Synod of 1950 by the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands. A study committee appointed by that synod reported favorably on this project in 1951, and a committee was appointed by the Synod of 1951 to advise the Synod of 1952 as to the extent and manner in which the revision is to be undertaken.

The Synod of 1952 adopted the advice of this study committee, consisting of the following four recommendations (*Acts*, 1952, pp. 35, 36, 161 ff).

"(1) That the proposed revision shall seek to retain the venerable Church Order of Dordt (1618-19) as to its general order and the number of articles.

(2) That the proposed revision shall present an improvement of the wording of the present redaction, which in several instances is obsolete or not clear. However, all needless changes shall be studiously avoided.

(3) That in so far as situations of sufficient importance have arisen in the life of the churches which are not covered by the rules of the present Church Order, the proposed revision may include additions to certain relevant articles, as long as these are in accordance with the Scriptures, our Reformed principles, and present established ecclesiastical practice.

(4) That this proposed revision shall be undertaken in close co-operation with the Dutch and possibly the South African churches but without binding the committee necessarily to incorporate the fruits of the labors of these others."

The undersigned were appointed as a committee to carry out this mandate. Through consultation with each other and correspondence with the committee in the Netherlands, your committee has investigated the possibility of working out a revision in collaboration with the Dutch committee. We wish to inform Synod that we have come to the conclusion that it is inadvisable and virtually impossible to work in such close collaboration with the other churches as to make the revision the work of a combined transatlantic committee. Some of the dif-

difficulties are accounted for by the distance between the committees, the fact that the Dutch Synod meets only once in three years, and the further fact that important steps toward revisions have already been taken by them. The weightiest consideration, however, is the fact that local situations and conditions vary too much to make a unified product a reasonable goal. The latter is undoubtedly what the Synod of 1952 had in mind when it specifically excused the present committee from incorporating the results of the labors of the others and advised a redaction which would meet the needs of the Christian Reformed Church (Acts, 1952, p. 35).

We suggest that Synod go on record as favoring the following procedures to guide us in our future work. (1) That while the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands proceed with drafting and adopting their own revision, our committee shall keep in touch with their committee, informing them of our reactions to various proposed changes and additions, in so far as the committee in the Netherlands requests such consultation. (2) That our committee shall in due season advise one of our future synods as to possible and advisable revisions in our Christian Reformed Church Order, profiting by the findings and decisions of the Churches in the Netherlands.

We believe that by such a procedure the duty of consultation between sister churches will be discharged as far as it is possible to do so, and that thus the work of our own revision of the Church Order will go forward, but with the caution, consideration, and deliberation which is proper in so weighty a matter. Correspondence with the committee in the Netherlands has established that they agree with the propriety of this procedure and will welcome the comments which we have to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN MONSMA, *Chairman*

IDZERD VAN DELLEN

R. J. DANHOF

RALPH J. BOS

J. H. KROMMINGA, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 28**

(Art. 57)

**PUBLICATION OF SERMONS FOR READING SERVICES**

## ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

A. Your Committee respectfully reports that it has carried out Synod's mandate with respect to publishing Volume 9 of Sermons, and is busy preparing Volume 10. 500 copies of each will be published.

To ascertain the need for continued publication of sermons on free texts and the Catechism your committee addressed a questionnaire to our 389 consistories. We received 104 replies. We can be certain of disposing of 109 copies of Volume 9.

B. Our second mandate from Synod pertains to the preparation of a new set of Catechism sermons to be published at the rate of one volume per year. The results of the information received through the questionnaire are very discouraging and your committee has not felt free to continue with this part of its mandate until it first informs Synod of its findings.

1. Only 27 churches were sufficiently interested to reply in favor of or against a new series on the Catechism. 19 were in favor, 8 were not. Of the 19 only 17 felt sufficient need to have catechism sermons on hand and have consequently purchased the sermons edited by the Rev. Henry J. Kuiper.

2. Further, your Committee is aware that new sermons on the Catechism written by men of Reformed persuasion and edited by the Rev. H. J. Kuiper are still coming off the press.

3. And finally the expense involved in publishing 2 volumes on the Catechism would call for an outlay of at least \$2400.00.

It is the humble opinion of your committee that Synod should reconsider the decision to publish books on the Catechism until such a time when there shall be a more general demand for them, and to urge those consistories who feel the need of using Catechism sermons for reading to avail themselves of those that are now on the market.

C. Concerning the feasibility of using recorded sermons in public worship, your committee is not ready to report fully at this time. The use of recorded sermons is fully as much a matter of practice as of principle. Your committee is awaiting reports from a number of churches who have used recorded sermons.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. PAUL DEKOEK

REV. RAYMOND H. HAAN

REV. WILLIAM VERWOLF, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 29**  
(Art. 96)

**FAITH, PRAYER AND TRACT LEAGUE**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

During the past year the Lord has again richly blessed the activities of the Faith Prayer and Tract League. The silent evangelist of the printed page has been carried into all parts of our land through the efforts of those who were faithful in tract distribution. Although the files are not filled with written testimonials from those who were the recipients, there is evidence that the written word of hope and salvation was a great blessing to many people with whom contact was made.

In the year 1952 new records of tract distribution were reached by the league. A total of more than 2,500,000 tracts were sent out. Numerous inquiries and requests were received from new areas including foreign fields. It is difficult to estimate or visualize the influence which so great a distribution may have had upon the lives of thousands of people. Upon the basis of God's promises, we can be assured that these efforts will not return void.

As your delegate, I also wish to call your attention to the fact that this work was carried out with a minimum expenditure and with the greatest of efficiency. In spite of increased growth and greater tract distribution there has been no proportionate increase of costs. League headquarters and office facilities are meager and hardly adequate. The entire operation is carried on by a part time manager and part time office help, together with the continued cooperation of devoted board members. All monthly reports, as submitted by the manager, Mr. John Brondsema, revealed a keen interest in league growth and gave proof of his desire to have the league be a real service in God's kingdom.

I feel that our church should be grateful to God for past blessings upon the league and I hereby kindly request Synod to recommend this cause to our churches for their continued moral and financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN KEUNING

P. S. Receipts and Disbursements have been submitted to the Budget Committee.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 30**  
(Art. 163)

**REVISION OF THE FORM FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

The mandate of our Committee is found on page 70 of the Acts of Synod, 1952. In response to Overture No. 43 Synod adopted the advise of the advisory committee "to study the matter of revision and abbreviation of the Form for the Lord's Supper by appointing a study committee." The following grounds were adduced: "1. The sentence structure of our present form is cumbersome and difficult to read. 2. The form can be shortened without doing violence to its content. 3. A somewhat shorter form would encourage reading it in its entirety at both Communion services." These are substantially the grounds given in the overture of Classis Zeeland.

Although the fact that Synod appointed a committee to study the matter of revision and abbreviation does not commit such a committee in favor of revision, the grounds adopted with the recommendation clearly imply that Synod favored some revision. We have therefore concluded that our mandate is twofold: 1. to study the advisability of abbreviating and re-wording the Form for the Lord's Supper; 2. in the light of such study to submit drafts of whatever we deem advisable in the way of an altered Form.

**HISTORICAL**

We begin by reminding of decisions of past Synods regarding the use of the Form for the Lord's Supper.

The Synod of 1922 (Acts p. 71) rejected an overture by Classis Pella asking Synod to recommend the reading of the first part of the Form in the preparatory service. This action was based on the grounds that: (1) the Form is not adapted (op aangelegd) to be split into two sections; (2) the exposition of the doctrine of the Lord's Supper found in the first part of the Form is inseparably connected with the exhortation to self-examination and belongs with the celebration of the Sacrament.

At the Synod of 1936 an overture by the Consistory of Summer Street, Passaic, N. J. asked Synod to grant permission to read the Form in two parts with the understanding that the opening paragraph be read also at the Communion service. A protest by Mr. H. Hamstra against the action of his Consistory in this matter was also considered. Synod disposed of the matter by deciding not to take action as requested by the Consistory, but to declare that according to Art. 62 (C. O.) and the decision of Synod 1922 this matter is left to the dis-

cretion of the Consistories. It is true that Art. 62 leaves matters of detail to the discretion of the Consistories, but not the reading of the Form and prayers. It is also obvious that the Synod of 1922 did not leave this to the discretion of the Consistories but decidedly advised against reading the Form in two parts.

In 1938 Classis Pella asked Synod to draft an abbreviated Form for the Lord's Supper "to be read, if so desired, in place of the long Form in the second and third services on the Lord's Day." (Acts, p. 43) Synod did not accede to this request on the grounds that: (1) an abbreviated Form, once adopted by Synod, may crowd out the regular Form, which would be a distinct loss; and (2) in our bi-lingual churches, the regular Form should be used in both languages.

The need for change in the use of our Form has thus been brought to the attention of Synod in various ways over a period of thirty years. It is also significant that this matter is receiving attention in the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. In distinction from previous Synods the Synod of 1952 acted favorably upon the request of Classis Zeeland, and we trust that our labors may find further favorable response from the Synod of 1953.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the light of previous Synodical decisions, especially the grounds adopted by the decision of 1952, and taking into consideration practices common in our churches as to the manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper, your committee comes with the following recommendations:

- I. The preparatory part of the Form should not be read separately at the preparatory service. Synod advises those Consistories now following this practice to discontinue doing so.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The Synod of 1922 rejected the overture of Classis Pella on grounds that still hold against splitting the Form into two parts. The conclusion of the Synod of 1936 that this is left to the discretion of the Consistories is erroneous and contrary to the spirit of Article 62 C. O. and the decision of 1922.

2. The preparatory sermon should stress the three points of self-examination and make the use of the Form for that purpose unnecessary.

3. Historically our fathers did not feel that a form for the preparatory service was necessary; on the contrary, our liturgical forms belong with the liturgical act which they explain and should not be separated from it by an entire week.

- II. No extensive abbreviation and revision of our beautiful and well-rounded Form should be made.



*Grounds:*

1. It is "the pearl of our liturgical forms" (Prof. Biesterveld) and radical revision will tend to mar its effectiveness and beauty.

2. The Form is not too long if the sermon, which is frequently too lengthy, is kept within proper limits, and given less prominence. (See further recommendation IV)

### III. WITH RESPECT TO THE SECOND COMMUNION SERVICE WE RECOMMEND:

A. Synod adopt an officially approved abbreviated Form which may be used at the second administration of the Sacrament, at the discretion of the Consistories.

B. Synod make the reading of the unabbreviated Form mandatory for first administration of the sacrament, and when there is only one Communion service.

*Grounds:*

1. Reading the long Form twice on the same Lord's Day to the same congregation tends to create weariness and dislike for the Form.

2. A lengthy Form detracts from the post-Communion applicatory sermon, which stresses points not prominent in the Form.

3. The objection of the Synod of 1938 that use of a short Form will crowd out the long Form is met by making the use of the unabbreviated version mandatory in the first service. Moreover, the fact is undeniable that now many churches make their own unauthorized abbreviation of the Form in the second service, making for a lack of uniformity that is undesirable and will be removed by use of an official shorter Form.

### IV. SYNOD ADVISES THE CHURCHES TO CHANGE THE USUAL ORDER OF THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

. . . in which the Form is commonly read *after* the sermon—so that the sermon will be preached after the words, "may the almighty God and Father . . . help us in this," etc., and be followed by the prayer. (This would not necessitate a change in the wording of Article 62 of the Church Order, since we now follow the Form by the sermon in the applicatory service without regarding this as a violation of the Church Order. The intent of the Article is that the sacrament shall be accompanied by administration of the Word).

*Grounds:*

1. Not the sermon but the sacrament is the main thing in this particular service. This does not mean that we fall into sacramentalism, for the Form is in effect administration of the Word in explanation of the sacrament.

2. This will give more prominence to the Form, integrate it more closely with the sermon, and lessen the danger that the sermon crowds out the Form. (See further suggested draft).

V. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND REVISIONS:

(We are listing these separately in order that we may give our grounds for these changes; this will also facilitate discussion by Synod).

A. The Lord's Prayer should not be used twice. We have eliminated it from the prayer of Thanksgiving in the long Form, as is also done in the Dutch version commonly used in the Netherlands. We have added it to the thanksgiving in the short Form since it forms the appropriate conclusion of the sacrament in the applicatory service.

B. The Apostle's Creed should be placed before the Lord's Prayer in the prayer, and not form the conclusion as at present. The Lord's Prayer is a perfect summing up of our petitions and as the divinely inspired Word should not be followed by even so honored a human document as the Creed. This change will also remove the confusion which easily results from the present order so that the Creed is sometimes recited rather than incorporated into the prayer. (Witness the "Amen" twice repeated.)

C. The words in italics: "During the communion a psalm shall," etc., should be deleted entirely. This practice has become largely obsolete in our churches. Whether there shall be singing, reading, or music by the organ during the communion can be left to the Consistories. However, your committee feels that even the spoken Word detracts from attention to the sacrament and that silent meditation during its observance is preferable.

D. Revision of the list of "gross sins" in more modern terms to meet our present situation. We suggest the following:

"All who worship any creature rather than God the Creator; all who practice any form of superstition; all who take God's name in vain; all desecrators of the holy Sabbath; all who disobey their parents and other God appointed authorities; all who sow dissension in Church or State; all who foster hatred and envy; all adulterers, and those who live in unchastity, intemperance and dishonesty; all gamblers and covetous persons; and all who live ungodly lives."

E. We recommend the elimination of the quotation of Christ's words at the institution of the Supper. Although this gives a good liturgical effect, it involves repetition of what has already been stated in quoting I Corinthians 11, and is repeated essentially in the Communion formula.

VI. WE RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING REVISION OF THE UNABBREVIATED FORM :

*Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, attend to the words of the institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by the holy apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-29 :*

*For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, This is my body, which is for you; this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.*

To celebrate the supper of the Lord to our comfort it is necessary to examine ourselves rightly; and to direct it to the end for which Christ has ordained and instituted it, namely, to His remembrance.

The true examination of ourselves consists of these three parts :

First: Let each of us consider by himself his sins and accursedness, that he may abhor himself and humble himself before God, considering that the wrath of God against sin is so great that He, rather than to leave it unpunished, has punished it in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, with the bitter and shameful death of the cross.

Second: Let each of us examine his heart whether he also believes this sure promise of God that all his sins are forgiven him only for the sake of the passion and death of Jesus Christ, and the complete righteousness of Christ is imputed and freely given him as his own—yes, so completely as if he himself, in his own person, had satisfied for all his sins and fulfilled all righteousness.

Third: Let each of us examine his conscience whether he is minded henceforth to show true thankfulness to God in his whole life, and to walk sincerely before His face; likewise, whether he, without any hypocrisy, heartily laying aside all enmity, hatred and envy, earnestly resolves henceforth to live in true love and unity with his neighbor.

All who are thus minded God will certainly receive in grace and count them worthy partakers of the table of His Son Jesus Christ. On the contrary, those who do not feel this testimony in their hearts eat and drink judgment to themselves. Wherefore we also, according to the command of Christ and of the apostle Paul, admonish all who know themselves to be defiled with wilful sins to abstain from the table of

the Lord, and declare to them that they have no part in the kingdom of Christ; such as all who worship the creature rather than God the Creator; all who practice any form of superstition; all who take God's name in vain; all desecrators of the holy Sabbath; all who disobey their parents and other God appointed authorities; all who sow dissension in Church or State; all who foster hatred and envy toward their neighbor; all adulterers, and those who live in unchastity, intemperance and dishonesty; all gamblers and covetous persons; and all who live unholy lives. All these, while they continue in such sins, shall abstain from this food, which Christ has appointed only for His believers, lest their judgment be made the heavier.

But this is not designed, dearly beloved brothers and sisters, to discourage the contrite hearts of the believers, as if none might come to the supper of the Lord but he that is without sin. For we do not come to this supper to testify thereby that we are perfect and righteous in ourselves. On the contrary, we seek our life apart from ourselves in Jesus Christ, and acknowledge thereby that we lie in the midst of death. Therefore, although we find many shortcomings and miseries in ourselves—namely, that we have not perfect faith and do not give ourselves to serve God with perfect zeal, but have to strive daily with the weakness of our faith and the evil lusts of our flesh, yet, since we are, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, heartily sorry for these shortcomings and desire to fight against our unbelief and to live according to all the commandments of God, we rest assured that no sin or infirmity which still remains in us against our will can hinder us from being received by God in grace and being made worthy partakers of this heavenly food and drink.

Let us now also consider to what end the Lord has instituted His supper; namely, that we should do this in remembrance of Him. After this manner we are to remember Him by it:

First, that our Lord Jesus Christ according to the promises made in the Old Testament was sent by the Father into this world. He assumed our flesh and blood, and has borne for us the wrath of God from the beginning of His incarnation to the end of His life upon earth. The bloody sweat was pressed out of Him in the garden, where He was bound that we might be set free from our sins. Afterwards He suffered innumerable reproaches, was innocently condemned to death, and permitted His blessed body to be nailed to the cross that He might fasten to it the bond written in ordinances that was against us. Thus He has taken the curse from us, that He might fill us with His blessings. He humbled Himself to the very depths of hellish agony when He cried on the cross, *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* Finally, He confirmed with His death and the shedding of

His blood the new and eternal testament, the covenant of grace and of reconciliation, when He said, *It is finished.*

That we might firmly believe that we belong to this covenant of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper on the same night that He was betrayed. By this sign and seal the Lord Himself assures us, saying, As often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you shall thereby, as by a sure remembrance and pledge, be admonished and assured of My hearty love and faithfulness toward you, that, whereas you should otherwise have suffered eternal death, I give My body on the tree of the cross and shed My blood for you, and nourish and refresh your hungry and thirsty souls to everlasting life as certainly as this bread is broken before your eyes, and this cup is given you, and you eat and drink with your mouth in remembrance of Me.

From this institution of the holy supper of our Lord we see that He directs our faith and trust to His perfect sacrifice once offered on the cross, as the only ground and foundation of our salvation, whereby He has become to our hungry and thirsty souls the true food and drink of life eternal. For by His death He has taken away the cause of our eternal death and misery, namely sin, and obtained for us the life-giving Spirit, that we by the indwelling Spirit should have true communion with Him and be made partakers of all His riches, of life eternal, righteousness and glory.

Besides, by this same Spirit we are also united as members of one body in true brotherly love, as the Apostle says; *Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.* For as the bread in the sacrament is baked out of many grains, and the wine is pressed out of many grapes, so are we many members of Christ, but together one body. As therefore Christ has so exceedingly loved us, we are to love one another for His sake, and show this toward one another not only in words, but also in deeds.

May the almighty, merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us in this through His Holy Spirit. Amen.  
*(The sermon shall be preached at this time)*

That we may obtain all this, let us humble ourselves before God and with true faith implore Him for His grace:

Merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee that in this supper, in which we exercise the blessed remembrance of the bitter death of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, Thou wilt be pleased to work in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, that we with true confidence give ourselves up more and more to Thy Son Jesus Christ. May our contrite hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit be nourished and refreshed with His true body and blood, yea, with Him, true God and man, the only

heavenly bread, so that we no longer live in our sins, but He in us and we in Him. Make us so truly partakers of the new and everlasting testament, the covenant of grace, that we do not doubt that Thou wilt forever be our gracious Father, nevermore imputing our sins unto us, and providing us with all things for body and soul as Thy dear children and heirs.

Grant us also Thy grace that we may take up our cross cheerfully, deny ourselves, confess our Savior, and in all tribulation, with uplifted head, expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where He will make our mortal bodies like His glorified body, and take us to Himself in eternity.

May we by this holy supper be strengthened in the catholic, undoubted Christian faith, of which we make profession with heart and mouth, saying,

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe a holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.*

Answer us, O God and merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors; and bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. AMEN.*

That we, then, may be nourished with Christ, the true heavenly bread, let us not cling with our hearts to the external bread and wine but lift them up on high to heaven, where Christ Jesus is our Advocate, at the right hand of His heavenly Father, not doubting that we shall be nourished and refreshed in our souls with His body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit, as truly as we receive the holy bread and drink in remembrance of Him.

(In breaking and distributing the bread the minister shall say:)

The bread which we break is a communion of the body of Christ. Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(When he takes the cup he shall say)

The cup of blessing which we bless is a communion of the blood of Christ. Take, drink ye all of it, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(After the communion the minister shall say:)

Beloved in the Lord, since the Lord has nourished our souls at His table, let us jointly praise His holy Name with thanksgiving; and let everyone say in his heart:

*Bless Jehovah, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

*Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.*

*Jehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness.*

*He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever.*

*He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward them that fear him.*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

*Like as a father pitieth his children, so Jehovah pitieth them that fear him. (Psalm 103:1-4, 8-13)*

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)*

*But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:8-10)*

Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord from this time forth for evermore. AMEN.

#### *Thanksgiving*

O merciful God and Father, we thank and praise Thee with all our heart that in Thy boundless mercy Thou hast given us Thine only begotten Son for a Mediator and sacrifice for our sins, and as our food and drink to eternal life; and that Thou givest us a true faith by which

we become partakers of these Thy benefits. Thou hast also through Thy dear Son Jesus Christ instituted and ordained the holy supper for the strengthening of that faith. We beseech Thee, O faithful God and Father, that through the operation of the Thy Holy Spirit the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His death may tend to our daily increase in true faith and in blessed fellowship with Christ; through Him, Thy dear Son, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, lives and reigns forever. AMEN.

VII. WE RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING ABBREVIATED FORM, FOR USE IN A SECOND COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY:

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, attend to the words of the institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by the holy apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-29:

For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, This is my body, which is for you; this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat of this bread and drink of the cup ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.

To celebrate the supper of the Lord to our comfort it is necessary to examine ourselves rightly; and to direct it to the end for which Christ has instituted it, namely, to His remembrance.

The true examination of ourselves consists of these three parts:

First: Let each of us consider by himself his sins and accursedness, that he may abhor himself and humble himself before God.

Second: Let each of us examine his heart whether he also believes this sure promise of God that all his sins are forgiven him only for the sake of the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Third: Let each of us examine his conscience whether he is minded henceforth to show true thankfulness to God in his whole life, and to live in love and unity with his neighbor.

All those who are thus minded God will certainly receive in grace and count them worthy partakers of the table of His Son Jesus Christ. On the contrary, those who do not feel this testimony in their hearts eat and drink judgment to themselves. Wherefore we also admonish all who know themselves to be defiled with wilful sins to abstain from



the table of the Lord. These, while they continue in such sins, shall abstain from this food, which Christ has appointed only for His believers, lest their judgment be made the heavier.

But this is not designed, dearly beloved brothers and sisters, to discourage the contrite hearts of the believers, as if none might come to this supper of the Lord but he is that without sin. For we do not come to this supper to testify thereby that we are perfect and righteous in ourselves. On the contrary, we seek our life apart from ourselves in Jesus Christ, and acknowledge that we lie in the midst of death. Therefore, although we find many shortcomings and miseries in ourselves, namely, that we have not perfect faith and do not give ourselves to serve God with perfect zeal, but have to strive daily with the weakness of our faith and the evil lusts of our flesh, yet, since we are, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, heartily sorry for these shortcomings and desire to fight against our unbelief and to live according to all the commandments of God, we rest assured that no sin or infirmity which still remains in us against our will can hinder us from being received by God in grace and being made worthy partakers of this heavenly food and drink.

Let us now also consider to what end the Lord has instituted His supper; namely, that we should remember Him by it. Let us, then remember that our Lord Jesus Christ according to the promises made in the Old Testament was sent by the Father into this world. He assumed our flesh and blood, and has borne for us the wrath of God from the beginning of His incarnation to the end of His life upon earth. The bloody sweat was pressed out of Him in the garden, where He was bound that we might be set free from our sins. Afterward He suffered innumerable reproaches, was innocently condemned to death, and permitted His blessed body to be nailed to the cross that He might fasten to it the bond written in ordinances that was against us. Thus He has taken the curse from us, that He might fill us with His blessings. He humbled Himself to the very depths of hellish agony when He cried on the cross, *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* Finally, He confirmed with his death and the shedding of His blood the new and eternal testament, the covenant of grace and of reconciliation, when He said, *It is finished.*

That we might firmly believe that we belong to this covenant of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper on the same night that He was betrayed. By this sign and seal the Lord Himself assures us, saying, As often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you shall thereby, as by a sure remembrance and pledge, be admonished of this My hearty love and faithfulness toward you, that, whereas you should otherwise have suffered eternal death, I give My

body on the tree of the cross and shed my blood for you, and nourish and refresh your hungry and thirsty souls to everlasting life as certainly as this bread is broken before your eyes, and this cup is given you, and you eat and drink with your mouth in remembrance of Me.

From this institution of the holy supper we see that our Lord directs our faith and trust to His perfect sacrifice once offered on the cross, as the only ground of our salvation. For by His death He has taken away the cause of our eternal death and misery, namely sin, and obtained for us the life-giving Spirit, that we by the indwelling Spirit should have true communion with Him and be made partakers of all His riches, of life eternal, righteousness and glory.

Besides, by this same Spirit we are also united as members of one body in true brotherly love, as the Apostle says: *Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.* As Christ has so exceedingly loved us, we are also to love one another for His sake, and show this toward one another not only in words, but also in deeds.

May the almighty, merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us in this through His Holy Spirit. AMEN.

That we may obtain all this, let us humble ourselves before God and with true faith implore Him for His grace:

Merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee that in this supper, in which we exercise the blessed remembrance of the bitter death of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, Thou wilt be pleased to work in our hearts through the Holy Spirit that we with true confidence give ourselves up more and more to Thy Son Jesus Christ. May our contrite hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit be nourished and refreshed with His true body and blood, yea, with Him true God and man, the only heavenly bread, so that we no longer live in our sins, but He in us and we in Him. Make us so truly partakers of the new and everlasting testament, the covenant of grace, that we do not doubt that Thou wilt forever be our gracious Father, nevermore imputing our sins unto us, and providing us with all things for body and soul as Thy dear children and heirs.

Grant us also Thy grace that we may take up our cross cheerfully, deny ourselves, confess our Savior, and in all tribulation, with uplifted head, expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where He will make our mortal bodies like His glorified body, and take us to Himself in eternity.

May we by this holy supper be strengthened in the catholic, undoubted Christian faith of which we (have made, or make) profession with heart and mouth. (It shall be optional whether the Apostles' Creed shall be read before the Form, or incorporated into the prayer at this point).

Answer us, O God and merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

That we may be nourished with Christ, the true heavenly bread, let us not cling with our hearts to the external bread and wine but lift them up on high to heaven, where Christ Jesus is our Advocate, at the right hand of His heavenly Father, not doubting that we shall be nourished and refreshed in our souls with His body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit, as truly as we receive the holy bread and drink in remembrance of Him.

(In breaking and distributing the bread the minister shall say:)

The bread which we break is a communion of the body of Christ. Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(When he takes the cup he shall say:)

The cup of blessing which we bless is a communion of the blood of Christ. Take, drink ye all of it, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(It shall be optional whether the post-communion thanksgiving as in the regular Form shall be read at this time:)

#### *Thanksgiving*

O merciful God and Father, we thank Thee with all our heart that in Thy boundless mercy Thou hast given us Thine only begotten Son for a Mediator and sacrifice for our sins, and as our food and drink to life eternal; and that Thou givest us a true faith by which we become partakers of these Thy benefits. Thou hast also through Thy dear Son Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper for the strengthening of that faith. We beseech Thee, faithful Father, that through the operation of Thy Holy Spirit the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His death may tend to the daily increase of our faith; through Him, Thy dear Son, in whose name we conclude our prayers, saying, (to be concluded with the Lord's Prayer) AMEN.

Your Committee requests Synod to permit Rev. J. C. Verbrugge, our Chairman, to defend our Report when it is considered by Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. VERBRUGGE  
ELCO H. OOSTENDORP  
J. K. VAN BAALEN  
J. HANENBURG

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 31**  
(Art. 69)

**REALIGNMENT OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION**  
(Majority Report)

To the Synod of 1953

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Herewith the study committee No. 54, appointed by the Synod of 1951, presents its report:

I. MANDATE: (*Acts of 1951*, page 71, art. 136, II).

The mandate of your committee finds its origin in two overtures addressed to the Synod of 1951 and in Synod's reaction to a study report submitted on "The Scope of Church Extension."

Overture No. 3 was submitted to Synod by Classis Grand Rapids West, and its full text may be found in the *Acts of Synod, 1951* pp. 449 and 450. Therein "Classis Grand Rapids West overtures Synod to consider a plan of providing three committees for the control of our Mission and Church Extension work." The plan submitted envisions the establishment of a Church Extension Committee, a Domestic Mission Committee, and a Foreign Missions Committee. The significant ground for the desirability of this realignment was stated as follows:

"There is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own Christian brethren.

a. This confusion is evident in the preamble of our "Rules of the Home Mission Order." The delineation of the scope of home missions which is given in the rules stresses several aspects of the work among the brethren and barely mentions the primary task of missions—bringing the Gospel to the unchurched.

b. This same confusion is evident among the membership of our churches. In our mission programs little or no distinction seems to be sensed with respect to work among unbelievers on the one hand and brethren of the faith on the other.

c. The above-mentioned confusion tends to weaken our program of bringing the Gospel to the unchurched and unbelieving. Without in any sense deprecating the importance of laboring for and among the brethren of the Reformed faith, we must in fairness acknowledge that in our home mission work we have emphasized the need of church extension among our brethren in the faith and neglected large scale work among the unchurched."

Overture 23 to the Synod of 1951 from the Saginaw Christian Reformed Church endorsed and further amplified the overture of Classis Grand Rapids West. (See *Acts, 1951*, page 457). Grounds 2 and 3 of this overture present pertinent argumentation which is additional to that of the original overture. These grounds read as follows:

"2. Church extension matters will become more coordinated. Sometimes, it would seem, there is a lack of coordination between such functions as Church Help and the Fund for Needy Churches, simply because two different committees deal with such problems.

"3. It will cause the long spoken-about mission program in the United States to come into its own. We believe our witness to our fellow Americans is rather weak. Furthermore, due to the emphasis which is placed on seeking the scattered Reformed sheep (extension work), there is a seeming lack of leadership for organized churches which seek to carry forth the evangelization mandate of our Lord and integrate the fruits of such evangelization into said churches. Such leadership ought to come from the leaders of our domestic missions program. We believe that we are correct in observing that today the number of ordained men in extension work *greatly outnumbers* those engaged in missions or evangelization. We believe this will continue until the day we distinguish in principle and in practice between missions and extension."

Your committee was appointed to study the problem "and serve Synod with advice whether there should be a re-division of Synodical work," giving these grounds:

a) "The plan appears to have merit."

b) "The implications of the plan are so far-reaching, that your advisory committee is unable to serve Synod with advice in this matter." (See *Acts, 1951*, page 71, art. 136. II, B).

In addition to these overtures the Synod of 1951 also faced the problem of the relationship between Church Extension and Home Mission work. Synod *adopted* the majority report of a previous study committee on "The Scope of Church Extension," which advised "that Synod *do not specify* that 'the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own members and in our church centers' be included in 'the scope of Home Missions' and that therefore the phrase 'to promote, etc.' *be not incorporated* into the Preamble of the Home Mission order" (*Acts, 1951*, p. 71; italics ours). The grounds adopted for the above read as follows:

a) "The organization of new congregations in church centers is presently a part of the Home Mission program, and hence there is no need of incorporating this statement in the preamble."

b) "The inclusion of these words 'the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our church centers and among our own people' tends to give too much emphasis to 'organizing new congregations among our own people' rather than to 'the preaching to those who are without,' *which is the primary task of Home Missions.*" (italics ours).

From the above action of Synod arose the further question whether the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own church members and in our church centers should constitute a part of the work of Home Missions at all. Therefore Synod again referred

"the Matter of the 'Scope of Home Missions,' namely whether the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own members and in our own church centers shall be included in the scope of Home Missions" to this committee for further study and advice. (See *Acts, 1951*, page 72). When Synod declared that "*the basic plan appears to have merit,*" and decided that the inclusion of the words "the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our church centers and among our own people" "*tends to give too much emphasis to 'organizing new congregations among our own people' rather than to 'the preaching to those who are without,' which is the primary task of Home Missions*" (italics ours), it is evident that Synod recognized the merit of the contention of Classis Grand Rapids West and of the Saginaw Consistory that "there is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the un-churched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own brethren."

A particular aspect of this problem was touched upon directly by an overture to the Synod of 1952 from Classis Chicago North (Overture 9, *Acts, 1952*, pages 519-20) which requested

"That the work of Church Community Jewish Evangelism be placed under the General Committee for Home Missions. Grounds:

1. The field of activity of our Field Missionary would thus be extended to the entire denomination.

2. The Field Missionary would thus be available wherever there is opportunity for Jewish Evangelism.

3. In this way we would expand our witness to the Jewish people beyond the Chicago and Paterson area.

4. It would create a greater interest in and love for Jewish Mission work throughout the denomination.

5. Synod has at its 1948 meeting gone on record as favoring this plan, but it was never definitely carried out as a project denominational in scope. We quote the *Acts of 1948* as follows: 'Synod encourage our churches to act in accordance with the ideas expressed in the Report, namely that we seek to evangelize the Jews which live within the bounds of our local churches, as well as those living in predominantly Jewish communities. This should be done as a phase of the United Home Mission Service' (*Acts, 1947*, Art. 109, I, A, p. 59; *Acts, 1948*, Art. 55, I, A, b, p. 16)."

The Synod of 1952 referred this matter to our committee. (See *Acts, 1952*, page 67, art. 136, III).

## II. ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM:

As a result of our study of these overtures, the related declarations of Synod respecting them, and the present organization of our "mission agencies," your committee is convinced that there are certain inadequacies resident in the present structure of our denominational "mission agencies." These have resulted from a lack of proper definition

of activity and the failure to provide over-all planning as the work of the church increased in scope and variety. In the solution which we propose to these difficulties, your committee has sought to obviate the weaknesses in the present organization of our mission agencies, and to prepare an administrative blue-print which is logically integrated on the basis of inherent principles.

We are convinced that the logical and practical integration of our denominational work demands that related efforts be administered by committees whose functions are clearly defined on a *principal* basis. In the past it has happened that some of our related denominational projects have been allocated to committees which have been independent and unrelated to each other. For example, our Jewish Missions have operated independently of our Home Missions efforts; our work in South America, and more recently in Ceylon, has been carried on by a separate committee, reporting only to Synod. This tends to dissipation of administrative talent and to duplication of effort. To escape fragmentation we believe that our church should direct its attention to the organization of our denominational "missions agencies" on *basic inherent principles*.

There have been times in which we have placed unrelated matters under the jurisdiction of one committee. As an illustration of this your committee would like to cite the experience of the General Committee for Home Missions. Your committee believe that Synod has saddled the General Committee for Home Missions with too many of these unrelated tasks. These have been loaded on the General Committee for Home Missions perhaps because we lacked a proper agency to execute them, but with the result that there was little attention paid by Synod to the relationship of these tasks to the main task of the Committee, which is evangelism. Our Canadian Immigration work with the funds, man power, and buildings involved has drawn heavily upon the resources and energies of the Committee. These extra-evangelistic tasks and responsibilities have prevented the Home Missions Committee from going all-out for its main task. The able secretaries have labored exhaustively but with not enough time to devote to evangelism. Operational interference is especially costly at a time when top leadership is sorely needed by the church which is groping in its early efforts in real evangelism upon its emergence from its traditional isolationism.

In order that the General Committee for Home Missions may perform its proper labors, it will have to be unloaded of its extra-evangelistic burdens. The Home Missions Committee has in the past produced some excellent studies on a Calvinistic evangelism (see the report to Synod of 1946, many *Banner* articles, etc.), but a more difficult and important task must yet be attacked, namely to project such studies into field activity. The challenge of domestic evangelism has not yet

been brought down to the "grass roots." This promotional task among our own members calls for all-out efforts, and in conjunction with this we must reach out into the extensive fields that are opening before us in our American world. The Committee which is charged to execute this work *must* be free from all encumbrances to pursue its main task.

It is our opinion that the assignment of extra-evangelistic tasks to the Home Missions Committee is an indication of our failure to think through the inherent organizing principles upon which a denominational committee for evangelism ought to be organized. In recent years God has given our church a real awakening in home missions interest. If we are wise, we will immediately capitalize on this. We must solidify our gains and direct a forcible assault against unbelief by mobilizing the strength of our church toward evangelism. Our proposed solution will, we believe, point the way toward this concentration of effort.

### III. CONSIDERATIONS:

In proposing a logically integrated structure of denominational boards and committees, we have been governed by the following considerations:

1. Fairness to our membership demands representative control through classically-designated members to denominational boards and committees—this because our churches are held responsible for the moral and financial support of all denominational projects. The work of the church that is denominational in scope should be, whenever possible, conducted by general committees composed of classically-designated representatives together with such members at large as Synod may deem wise to appoint. It is this sort of arrangement that has kept our church informed with respect to our denominational projects. We feel that the absence of such representation is one of the weaknesses of our present set-up in so far as several of our denominational committees are concerned. For example, the committees for South America and Ceylon, the Back to God Hour, and Jewish Missions are relatively independent of and removed from our classes and churches.

Consistency requires that there be a greater degree of uniformity with respect to the representative character of our boards and committees. The genius of our Reformed Church polity necessitates that the projects of the church should be as close to the individual churches as possible.

2. We feel that *unity of effort* must be preserved, and that tendencies toward sectionalism within our denomination must be curbed. The *future* solidarity of our denomination will be assured only by arousing and maintaining the interest and cooperation of our entire membership.

3. We believe that administrative uniformity and integration of effort almost invariably effect economies in money and use of personnel.



We are convinced from a comparison of the administrative costs of our present Board set-up that the administrative costs of the three committees which we are recommending will not exceed the administrative costs which our church is presently paying. A look at the proposed budgets for 1954 will make this clear: the administrative costs of the Foreign Board are \$33,675.00; for the Home Missions Committee—\$14,200.00; for the Back to God Hour—\$33,700.00. In fact, it may very likely prove that a considerable saving will result from the correlation of the other independent committees under one head and unified direction. At the same time we feel that the large expenditure we are at present making for our radio hour would be a more justified expenditure if a more aggressive attack could be made on the evangelistic task. This we feel will be accomplished by the plan of reorganization which we propose.

4. Your committee argues for *long-range* perspective. Too frequently and too long we have regarded and accepted challenges as though they were or are merely incidental or passing emergencies. Thus it has come about that our Home Mission effort, for example, has been given the responsibility for too wide a variety of functions or activities not closely related to domestic evangelism specifically. We should admit that the aggregate of the crises of any given time often constitutes the normalcy of or for the future, if the Lord tarries. One emergency may conceivably evaporate but others will crowd into its place. It is for the servicing of these new (and miscellaneous) challenges, and for the undertaking of the duties not specifically evangelistic in character now cared for by the Home Missions Committee that we are proposing a third denominational committee—a denominational “church services committee.” This committee is not a “catch-all” for unrelated functions, for we feel that the inherent principles which will be defined will give a logical and orderly and practicable area of responsibility to this committee.

#### IV. DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO INHERENT PRINCIPLE:

We now arrive at a definition of categories according to inherent principles. Your committee proposes three such categories:

##### A) *Foreign Missions*

Foreign Missions may be defined as the work of the church which addresses itself particularly to those peoples that are basically pagan and heathen. It is the sacred duty and blessed privilege of the church to take part in the fulfillment of Christ's great commission to preach the Gospel to all nations.

### B) *Home Missions*

Home Missions may be defined as the work of the church which addresses itself particularly to the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the whole of our American community.

### C) *Denominational Services*

Denominational services may be defined as the activity of the church which provides for the spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members when needed, as well as for our brethren of the Reformed faith.

Your committee calls Synod's attention to the fact that the principle of division which defines the mandate and scope of labors of this third denominational committee is somewhat different from that defined in the overtures. Substantially, the work which is assigned to this committee is unchanged. However, we are assured that the principle according to which we have defined these labors is expressive of the intent of the original authors of the overture. Besides, it is acknowledged by the minority of our own committee to be "*without doubt thoroughly logical*" (italics ours). The only question that remains is whether or not this can be satisfactorily implemented. This we feel will be reasonably demonstrated by a delineation of the work of this committee.

We also feel that Synod must face this fact: the scope of our labors that comes under the category of "spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members . . . as well as of our brethren of the Reformed faith" has increased tremendously over the past years. Balance between the various aspects of this work will have to be maintained, but recognition will also have to be given to the relationship of this work to our other denominational commitments.

## V. OUR PROPOSED RE-ALIGNMENT.

### A. *The Christian Reformed Board of Missions*

With respect to the labors on the Indian and Foreign fields, your committee recommends that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions be retained with its presently assigned scope of labors—viz., Nigeria, Japan, China, Indonesia, Southern India, and the Indian Field, together with whatever new fields may be opened in the future in this area of activity.

#### *Grounds:*

a) Historically our Christian Reformed Board of Missions has been assigned the task of executing those mission activities of our denomination which addressed themselves particularly to those peoples that are basically pagan and heathen.

b) In the case of our Indian Missions, though lying within the boundaries of the continental United States, the Gospel addresses itself to a people that is basically pagan. Our missionaries here must deal with a pagan culture, and the problems are similar to those on the foreign field. However, in conformity with the overture your committee concedes that such work among the American Indians as may be conducted beyond the boundaries of the reservation in typical American communities (e.g., Albuquerque) should be under the jurisdiction of the General Committee for Home Missions as envisioned in this report.

B. *The General Committee for Home Missions*

According to our principle of definition and division of labor, we would assign the following work to this committee:

1. Denominational Radio Broadcast and Follow-up Work.

*Grounds:*

a) The Broadcast is designed to reach the unchurched and the unbelieving.

b) It serves as the spearhead of the Home Mission program, and should therefore be thoroughly integrated with this work.

c) The close relationship of the radio ministry to the denominational home missions effort is clearly attested by the Back to God Hour itself in *The Banner* of January 30, 1953:

*"The blessings of the past point to greater responsibility and opportunity for the future. . . . Five years of network broadcasting have paved the way for expansion beyond radio itself. The weekly messages and monthly devotional calendar are sent out by the tens of thousands every month . . . The recently inaugurated follow-up program has already led to the opening of denominational Home Mission fields in cities where the Christian Reformed Church previously had no place. This would seem to be only the beginning of a new and important outreach.*

*"Our responsibility as a denomination has immeasurably increased with this radio witness. Every member of the Christian Reformed Church is challenged to increase its effectiveness. Correlation between the effort of the Church's membership, and its radio witness is essential. Truly, God has given us a spiritual heritage which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."* (italics ours.)

2. Evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the United States and Canada.

*Grounds:* Synod itself has declared that this is "the primary task of home missions" (cf. *Acts*, 1951, p. 71).

3. The work among the distantly dispersed brethren of the faith in the United States and Canada, such work to be done in conjunction with the work among the unchurched and unbelieving. This does not have reference to such concentrations of Reformed believers as found in Canada at present because of immigration.

*Grounds:*

a) Ideally each center of evangelism should have the benefit of a Reformed nucleus.

b) Concretely, the work in such areas can only be done through Home Mission effort, and must be done in conjunction with the work among the unchurched and unbelieving.

## 4. The Publication of Tracts and Mission Literature.

*Grounds:*

a) Three committees are presently engaged in this work: Home Missions Committee, Back to God Hour, and the Synodical Tract Committee — resulting in duplication and overlapping.

b) Witnessing through the printed word can be a fruitful means for the accomplishment of Home Mission work.

c) The demand for literature in connection with our radio work is increasing, and this demand can be provided in this way.

5. Jewish Evangelism. The work among the Jews properly belongs to the activity of the General Committee for Home Missions.

*Grounds:* We believe that the grounds of the 'overture presented to the Synod of 1952 by Classis Chicago North (See Overture 9 to the Synod of 1952) argue conclusively for this:

"1. The field of activity of our Field Missionary would thus be extended to the entire denomination.

"2. The Field Missionary would thus be available wherever there is opportunity for Jewish Evangelism.

"3. In this way we would expand our witness to the Jewish people beyond the Chicago and Paterson areas.

"4. It would create a greater interest in and love for Jewish Mission work throughout the denomination.

"5. Synod has at its 1948 meeting gone on record as favoring this plan, but it was never definitely carried out as a project denominational in scope. We quote the *Acts of 1948* as follows: 'Synod encourage our churches to act in accordance with the ideas expressed in the Report, namely that we seek to evangelize the Jews which live within the bounds of our local churches, as well as those living in predominantly Jewish communities. This should be done as a phase of the United Home Mission Service' (*Acts, 1947, Art. 109, I, A, p. 59; Acts, 1948, Art. 55, I, A, b, p. 16.*)"

*C. Denominational Services Committee*

According to our previous definition, this is the general committee for spiritual and material aid to our own churches and to the brethren of the Reformed faith. Following this definition, we would assign the following work:

1. The promotion and establishment of new congregations among the brethren of the Reformed faith in Canada settling there as a result of the immigration program.

*Grounds:*

a) This effort cannot be viewed as Mission work, since these people are already members of the church.

b) This does constitute aid to the brethren of the Reformed faith.

## 2. The Canadian Emergency Building Fund.

*Ground:* This is closely allied to the work listed as 1. above, and should be integrated with it.

3. The supervision of the labors of the Canadian Immigration Committee.

*Ground:* Though this *committee* should continue as presently constituted because of the nature of its membership and work, its activities should be synchronized with the work numbered as 1. above.

## 4. The Calvinist Resettlement Committee.

*Ground:* Since the work of this committee will largely resemble the work being done among the immigrants in Canada, its logical grouping would be under this head, though it may function as a sub-committee of this General Committee.

5. The work of assisting our local congregations and/or classes in the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our own church centers and from among our own membership, when such help is needed.

*Grounds:*

a) There are instances when such aid to our own churches is necessary.

b) Though historically this work was carried on by the General Committee for Home Missions, it is not mission work, but constitutes spiritual aid to our own members.

## 6. The Fund for Needy Churches.

*Ground:* The work of subsidizing needy churches definitely constitutes aid to our own church members.

## 7. The Church Help Fund.

*Grounds:*

a) This fund, administered at present by an independent committee, could operate more efficiently if more closely integrated with the work of this General Committee.

b) This also constitutes aid for our own churches.

## 8. Work among the Servicemen.

*Ground:* Though carried on now by the Home Missions Committee, this work properly constitutes spiritual aid to our own membership, and is not Mission work.

### 9. Work in South America and Ceylon.

*Ground:* This work as presently conducted is spiritual aid primarily to the brethren of the Reformed faith.

However, should the character of this work change so that it becomes largely *missionary* instead of spiritual aid to brethren of the Reformed faith, we feel that these labors should become the responsibility of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

### 10. Korean Spiritual Relief.

*Ground:* This work is directed toward those who are brethren in the faith. These ten agencies, and others that may be established as need arises in the future, constitute the labors of the Denominational Services Committee.

This leaves one committee still unaccounted for, the Chaplains' Committee. Its work is so specialized and limited in scope, serving as a liaison between our Synod and the General Commission of Chaplains, that its interests can best be served by the presently constituted committee appointed directly by Synod. Therefore we recommend to leave it intact.

## VI. THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT AND PARTICULAR SYNODS

Since our churches are still considering the matter of establishing Particular Synods, your committee makes a few observations with respect to the question whether the establishment of such Synods would materially affect our recommendations. We call to your attention, first of all, that if our denomination moves in the direction of Particular Synods, we should still maintain denominational boards to carry on the work that is denominational in scope. To do otherwise would contribute to sectionalism and destruction of our denominational unity. Of course, the adoption of Particular Synods might alter the constituency of our boards: for instance, Synod might decide that the boards should be made up of delegates of the Particular Synods rather than delegates of the Classes. Such a change would not influence the determination of how many boards we should have or what work shall be entrusted to these boards. It would, however, be a satisfactory method of delegation to these boards, and since the number of classes would be increased, it would prevent the Boards from becoming unduly large and unwieldy with resulting inefficiency.

Looking at our proposed realignment, it is evident that the bulk of the work assigned to each committee, or board, is denominational in scope, and should be controlled by a denominational agency. We believe that an examination of the work of each committee makes this very clear.

The nature of our *Foreign Mission* work demands the continuation of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. The only alternative

would be to break up this work and entrust various fields to Particular Synods. That such a plan is not feasible is cogently demonstrated in the report of our Christian Reformed Board of Missions to the Synod of 1952, pp. 361-362 as follows:

"This plan of dividing responsibility for the administration of missions to various sections constituted along classical or geographical lines must inevitably lead to sectionalism in missions. By turning the administration over to various sections each would feel a greater allegiance to its own foreign mission work than to the whole work of the denomination. Such sectionalism will:

a. *Remove the work of foreign missions farther from the rank and file of our people* who will be expected to continue to pay their quotas but will know and specialize only in their own fields.

b. *Produce 'sectionally informed' delegates.* If at present only a small number of delegates at Synod have a sufficient draft of missions matters, there will be still less knowledge of mission matters if the delegates are informed as to only one field, each according to his own administrative section.

c. *Result in several diverse policies in missions.* It is already evident that, because of varying circumstances of background and national traditions found on the various missions fields, allowances must be made as to indigeneity and policies of subsidy. The fact that subsidies, etc., are checked on one field is because of the over-all picture that is possible to a general board conducting all the diverse fields. However, sectionalism in administration would cause a greater temptation to 'hand out' without consideration of the needs to be found elsewhere."

[d. *Result in loss of efficiency and economy.* The financial costs of dividing our foreign mission work would be disastrous. (Note: this statement is ours, not that of the report of the Board.) The report continues:] "The fact is that the multiplication of administrative bodies can mean only one thing—an increase in administrative expense to the denomination as a whole. The auditor's report on the work of our treasurer this year has this statement: 'The administrative cost is small compared to the volume of work involved and the fact that the administrative work of the various fields is managed by one office results in a most economical arrangement. Another important advantage that this centralization effects is that of maintaining cash reserves. It works like the Federal Reserve System; for instance, if a certain field, for good reasons, has expended more money than its allotment, other fields may have lesser disbursements (as has happened in previous years) and consequently payments are not interrupted. Difficulties would most likely arise if cash reserves were spread thinly among various treasuries. Individuals sending gifts and Classical Treasurers are also greatly accommodated by the present arrangement.'"

Looking at the work of *Home Missions*, we observe that in this category also a General Committee will still be necessary. The work of the Back to God Hour, the work among the distantly dispersed brethren of the faith, the publication of tracts and mission literature, the work of Jewish evangelism, and also the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the United States and Canada are all of a

denominational character and demand uniform policy and administration. It may be argued that the Particular Synods could take charge of the work within their territories. They *should* do so. Our Classes at present should also do home mission work in their territories. Some of our classical home missions committees are doing a splendid job of administering home mission work within the confines of their classes. However, there will always be many fields in our nation that are distant from the Classes or Particular Synods. The work on such fields should be done according to uniform policy by our denominational committee. The Committee on Particular Synods recognized this when it wrote: "A central Denomination-wide committee could be retained to which each Synod would appoint one or two delegates and the purpose of each would be to discuss mission principles, get a united approach to the general problems, and serve to stimulate activity generally." (*Acts of Synod, 1952, p. 173*).

A survey of the tasks of the *Denominational Services Committee* shows that it will also be engaged with matters that are denominational in scope.

If Particular Synods are established, your committee is convinced that the proposed realignment will still be the best method of conducting our denominational mission work and services with unity, efficiency, economy, and uniformity of policy.

## VII. SUGGESTIONS

Having studied the above plan and its implications, your committee has some practical suggestions for the execution of this project, should it find favor with and approval by Synod. They are as follows:

1. Since the plan proposes a much closer integration of Home Mission Work as now defined and the denominational broadcast, your committee would suggest moving the General Committee of Home Missions from the Grand Rapids area to the Chicago area and that the Executive Committee be composed of the members from Classes Chicago North, Chicago South, Oostfriesland, Wisconsin, and Kalamazoo, together with such members-at-large as Synod may appoint.

2. Since the technical aspects of the Radio Broadcast demand the services of men acquainted in this field, we suggest that a subcommittee of specialists be appointed by Synod for the administration of this aspect of the work, this sub-committee to be composed of members living in close proximity to Chicago so as to eliminate heavy expense.

3. Since the presently constituted Executive Committee of the General Home Mission Committee is thoroughly acquainted with the work in Canada, and since this constitutes at present so large a part of the work of this committee, we suggest that this Executive Committee serve as a nucleus for the Denominational Services Committee.



4. Because several "independent" committees have been eliminated, the proposed plan would demand less rather than more personnel as board members. Moreover, the amount of travelling involved would certainly not be increased, which will be evident when we bear in mind that much present travel will become unnecessary. To take one example only: the proposed plan would eliminate the present bi-monthly meetings of the *entire* Back to God Hour Committee. In addition, Synod must bear in mind the number of individuals presently involved in these various functions: the Back to God Hour Committee has 12 members, the South America Committee has 6 members, the Jewish Mission Boards together have 14 members, the Church Help Fund Committee has 6 members (a total) for these committees alone of 38 members). These would be eliminated under the proposed plan.

Your committee also favors that more laymen be appointed to serve as members of these boards. When these men are elected by the Classes (and this is permissible under our present rules), it is understood that they shall render their reports as do the ministers who are delegated.

#### VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that Synod adopt the above plan of realignment for the agencies carrying on the work of the church, and bring it into execution.

##### *Grounds:*

a) This realignment is in accordance with the inherent principle of the labors concerned.

b) This realignment will integrate and unify the efforts of the denomination, giving each its rightful place and needed emphasis.

c) This principle of realignment will provide for future expansion of denominational activity.

2. That Synod appoint a committee to draw up the necessary changes in the rules and mission orders which the above recommendation requires.

3. We recommend that Synod declare this work of the committee to be the proper fulfillment of its twofold mandate and Synod's answer to Overtures 3 and 23 presented to the Synod of 1951, and Overture 9 of 1952, as well as an answer to the question of the relationship between Church Extension and Home Mission work as posited by the Synod of 1951.

4. We recommend that Synod discharge this study committee as having completed its work.

5. We request Synod that Rev. W. P. Brink be permitted to defend this report before Synod and its advisory committee.

Humbly submitted,

WILLIAM P. BRINK  
 RENZE O. DE GROOT  
 RICHARD R. DE RIDDER  
 JOHN A. MULDER  
 EARL STRIKWERDA

### Minority Report

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The undersigned, members of the above named Study Committee, are unable to agree wholly with the judgments and recommendations of the Majority of this Committee, and beg leave to submit a Minority report and recommendation. The Minority questions the basic premise of the overture, namely, that Home Missions must deal only and exclusively with "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving." The Minority regards this isolation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" as neither necessary nor desirable. It is of the further opinion that in other respects the plan proposed by the overtures has serious drawbacks. And it judges that a satisfactory delineation of function can be achieved by some measure of reorganization within the existing framework.

#### I. DIFFICULTIES IN THE PLAN OF THE OVERTURES

A. The Minority believes that the strict separation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" from "church extension work among our own Christian brethren" is neither necessary nor desirable.

The major ground for the proposal of the overtures is the judgment that "there is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own Christian brethren." This confusion, it is said, "tends to weaken our program of bringing the Gospel to the unchurched and unbelieving." In order to remove this confusion and remedy this weakness it is proposed that the Home Missions Committee concern itself only and exclusively with "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving," and that "the work among our own Christian brethren" (Canada, South America, and Ceylon, our own church centers) be placed under the administration of a newly organized Committee—"the Church Extension Committee."

The question, therefore, is: Will the separation of "work among our own brethren" from Home Missions guarantee a due proportion and

quality of denominational effort in "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving?" The Minority does not feel that a separate administration is necessary to achieve this end, nor even that it is desirable.

Our present Home Missions Committee *can* discharge both duties—in the measure that the church herself is ready and able to discharge both—without unduly neglecting the unchurched and unbelieving. And it is fair to say that this is being done. The large attention we are giving to Canada is no disproof of it. For one thing, except for the fact that the Canadian field calls for some effort from the Home Missionary-at-Large and the secretary, that field has not taken away the services of the regular home missionaries in the states. Those who labor in Canada as Home Missionaries are men who have been established ministers, and who by reason of their ability in the Holland language have given themselves to emergency home missionary service in Canada. Secondly, it so happens that precisely at the time when Canada claimed so much of our Home Missions attention we have been making our largest advances in the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving—as witness our work in California, New Jersey, Bellwood and Champaign, Illinois, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Salt Lake City, Utah, Columbus, Ohio, Negro evangelization in Harlem, the exploratory activities of the Rev. Harold Dekker, and the summer field work of several Seminary students. No one will claim that we should be satisfied with this, but it does show what can be done, and what more can be done if our Home Missionary staff continues to enlarge its vision and purpose for the due prosecution of what Synod 1951 called "the primary task of Home Missions." The only remaining need is that our churches should be willing to provide adequate funds and that our ministers should be ready and willing to offer themselves to this urgent and difficult missionary service.

The Minority further contends that a separate administration for the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving is not wholly desirable. The task of preaching the gospel and organizing churches among our own brethren, does stand in some relationship to the work of evangelization. The establishment of new churches in new communities provides a real opportunity for making these churches relevant to that community, and when a new church is organized an attempt should certainly be made to interest not only Christian Reformed people in the neighborhood but as well the unchurched and ill-churched. We ought more seriously to think of the establishment of new churches as an opportunity for community penetration, instead of solely as an exercise of gathering together those already of our own faith or in our own membership. The continuance of this work under the Home Missions Committee would help to sustain this concern and purpose.

B. The Minority believes that in other respects the plan proposed has serious drawbacks.

1. The principle of organization proposed for the third committee by the overtures is faulty, since Home Missions is also and must indeed be an exercise in "Church Extension." The esteemed Majority of our Committee has recognized this and proposes a different principle of organization—that of "Denominational Services." But the Minority is not persuaded that this redefinition of the work of the third major Board makes the general plan proposed by the overtures any more acceptable. In fact, it introduces other and perhaps larger difficulties into the general plan proposed by the overtures.

The principle of "denominational services" is no more satisfactory than "church extension" as a principle for the organization of a third major Board. For the principle of "denominational service" is formal and abstract and not sufficiently realistic. It is without doubt thoroughly *logical* to classify the various activities proposed for the third committee in the *category* of "the activity of the church which provides for the spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members . . . as well as of our brethren of the Reformed faith." It is quite another question whether it is *reasonable* to place these various activities in the hands of one *Committee*. What looks good on paper may not be feasible or efficient in the field of actual operation. It will be observed that a "Denominational Services Committee" is expected to manage many activities which are actually quite unrelated, however logically they may be classified together as services; and activities carried on in widely separated areas, from Canada to Ceylon. By reason of this the work of that Committee would consist largely of a meaningless kind of supervision, since most of these activities, being specialized, would have to be administered in any event by separate committees, as is indeed recommended.

2. The organization of another major Board without better reason would unwarrantably increase the number of ministers who serve on Boards and Executive Committees and who are drawn frequently and sometimes long from the work of their churches. Already about 75 ministers are members of three major Board and Executive Committees which require considerable travel and extended periods of time away from their churches. The Minority does not believe that an additional twenty-five or more ministers should become so involved without commanding reason.

3. A large part of the work which the overtures propose for the third major Board is of an emergency nature and will be considerably reduced. Other parts of its work—such as the organization of new churches in our own church centers—should be left as much as possible

to more localized agencies such as consistories and classes, and ought certainly not be made one of the regular duties of a major denominational Board. As for our Canadian work, it is to be expected that after existing Canadian churches are more firmly established and the stream of immigration grows smaller, the Canadian churches and Classes will normally carry out that work themselves, in like manner and measure as our churches in the States.

There is much of the "work among our own brethren" which ought not to be made so prominent and permanent a part of denominational responsibility. As much as possible we ought to encourage a larger measure of local initiative and responsibility in the prosecution of that work. This can better be done if such work is a subsidiary part of the work of the Home Missions Committee, than if it is made the sole and permanent concern of a separate "Church Extension Committee." The latter committee—and this is even more true of a "Denominational Services Committee"—is likely to promote and encourage a large measure of ecclesiastical paternalism. It is certain that the setting up of a third committee will give larger prominence to "work among our own brethren" than it has ever had before; and many who hesitated to apply to the Home Missions Committee for help in the organization of new churches and for subsidies will be less hesitant to do so when a major Board is set up specifically for such purpose. We have opposed the growth of the Welfare State in our national life. Why encourage the growth of a Welfare Church in our denominational life?

## II. MINORITY RECOMMENDATION

Since our Committee was mandated also to "serve Synod with advice whether there should be a re-division of Synodical work," the Minority humbly submit its own recommendation. The Minority recommends the retaining of our present organizational structure, but suggests some change and rearrangement within it. We shall give our reasons for such changes as we proceed with the outline of our recommendation.

### A. *Foreign Missions Board*

- Nigeria - Japan - China - Indonesia - Southern India - Indian Field (USA) - South America and Ceylon.

There is one change proposed—the inclusion of South America and Ceylon under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Missions Board. Our reasons are the following:

1. Both South America and Ceylon offer strategic opportunities for the prosecution of what is essentially foreign mission work, for which the churches already existing there could provide a local base of operations. This is especially true of Ceylon. The work in these overseas areas, even on the present basis, can without undue burden be added to

that of the Foreign Missions Board, through which a uniform policy for all overseas personnel can be established in matters of allowance, furlough, etc.

2. In any event, the Minority does not believe that we should step up a policy of paternalism in our relationship to these churches, as we might be doing if we should place them under the care of a "Church Extension Committee." Perhaps it is coming to the time when we should be more concerned about encouraging these distant churches to become fully independent and self-sustaining. If we expect to press the principle of indigency in the native churches, we ought not to be too slow in seeking its application in churches of such long standing as those in South America and Ceylon. It will always be possible for us, as sister churches, to render aid in financial gifts and scholarships or grants for the training of their men. But no major Board will be needed to administer such aid.

*B. General Committee of Home Missions*

- Evangelism of the unchurched and unbelieving. - Jewish Evangelism.
- Labor among the dispersed of the faith in Canada and the U. S.
- Assistance in the organization of new churches. - Fund for Needy Churches. - Servicemen's Work.

The inclusion of Jewish Evangelism, as proposed in the overture of Classis Chicago North, and on the grounds there stated (cf. *Acts 1952*, pp. 519-20), is recommended by the Minority in agreement with the Majority.

C. For the rest, the Minority is of the opinion that in the interest of greater efficiency, because they are specialized activities, and because the work would in any event have to be conducted by separate Committees, the following activities should be administered by special committees appointed by Synod, as is now the case.

- Back to God Hour. - Publication of Literature. - Church Help Fund. - Calvinist Resettlement Service. - Canadian Immigration Service. - Chaplains' Work. - Korean Spiritual Relief.

The Minority wishes to make these observations concerning the Back to God Hour and the Publication of Literature.

1. Notwithstanding its close relationship to Home Missions work, the Minority recommends that the Back to God Hour continue as at present. Grounds:

a. The BTGH is by itself a large denominational effort and commands a large budget. It would in any event have to be administered by a special committee, as even the Majority recommends. There is no good reason why it should not continue under the present Committee

appointed directly by Synod. Synodical supervision of this Committee is adequate and salutary, and to be preferred to supervision by the Home Missions Committee.

b. Under the present administration the BTGH has been one of the most efficient and successful of all of our denominational enterprises, and already, through the Minister of Evangelism, has established an adequate liason with the Home Missions Committee. Unless it can be shown that there is some *actual* deficiency in the present set-up, the present proved and successful administration of the BTGH ought to be retained.

2. It is the opinion of the Minority that the publication of literature intended for denominational witness to the outside may well be assigned to the BTGH Committee. Grounds:

a. The BTGH is already engaged in the publication of a considerable body of literature intended for such denominational witness.

b. Because of the particular nature of its work and its large contact with the American world through radio mail, it is in a position to know what kind of literature is most effective for denominational witness.

c. The BTGH has at its command facilities for the publication and distribution of such literature.

### III. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. Our Committee has not made a special study of the problem of organization as it will be affected by the institution of Particular Synods. What the Minority proposes, therefore, is relevant to our present denominational structure—without Particular Synods. Since the introduction of Particular Synods might considerably alter our organizational structure, it is thought unwise to make any major organizational change at this juncture. It would seem that the Committee now making a study of the matter of Particular Synods ought to present to the Church a rather specific blue-print of organization and administration for our various denominational activities. The question of the organization and administration of denominational effort is a most crucial consideration for determining whether Particular Synods are feasible and may profitably be introduced.

#### B. Summary of Recommendations.

As long as we retain our present structure, and at least until Particular Synods are introduced, the Minority of the above-named Study Committee humbly submits the following recommendations for consideration by Synod:

1. That Synod do not adopt the plan of reorganization proposed by the overtures of Classis Grand Rapids West and the Church of Saginaw, Michigan, but retain in its general outline the present structure of Foreign Missions Board, General Committee for Home Missions and special Synodically appointed Committees. *Grounds:*

a. The strict separation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" from "church extension work among our own Christian brethren" is neither necessary nor desirable (cf. I, A, above).

b. The reorganization proposed by these overtures has serious drawbacks (cf. I, B, 1, 2, 3, above):

1) The principle of organization on which the general plan of the overtures is based is faulty.

2) The creation of another major Board, with Executive Committee and executive personnel, would unwarrantably increase the number of ministers serving on Major Boards and Executive Committees.

3) The plan of the overtures gives a too prominent and permanent status to work that ought to be considered of a temporary and emergency nature, and encourages the growth of an ecclesiastical paternalism.

c. There is, if we are to strengthen our mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving, a more basic need than that of reorganization. The more basic need is for a clearer understanding of the problems involved in mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving in America, of the missionary goal to which we must set ourselves, of the integration and co-ordination of our missionary efforts, and of the mission policies we must follow in the pursuit of our task. And with that there must be a determined purpose to use our congregations and the nuclei "of our own people" as missionary agencies, and a determined purpose to bring the unchurched and unbelieving into the Church of Christ without fear of the problems they may bring. If these conditions are not met, it is hard to believe that a mere shift in organization and administration will be a cure-all for the weakness of our mission to the American world.

d. Satisfactory improvement of administration can be effected by some alteration within the existing structure, as recommended below:

2. That Synod adopt the following organizational and administrative changes:

a. Discontinuance of the South America and Ceylon Committee, and the transfer of work in those areas to the administration of the Foreign Missions Board, for reasons given in II, A, 1, 2, above.

b. Transfer of Jewish Evangelism to the administration of the Home Missions Committee as proposed in the overture of Classis



Chicago North and for grounds adduced in that overture (cf. *Acts 1952*, pp. 519-20).

c. Assignment of the work of the publication of literature intended for denominational witness outward to the Back to God Hour Committee, for reasons given in II, C, 2, above.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. VANDE KIEFT  
GEORGE STOB

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 32**  
(Arts. 82, 96)

**THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF  
ADMINISTRATION**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:**

It is with gratitude to our God that we present this report on our activities in administering both the Pension and Relief Funds of our denomination.

**PART I**

**PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION**

The Board is composed of Mr. N. Hendrikse, President; the Rev. J. Beebe, Vice-President; the Rev. F. Handlogten, Secretary; Mr. F. L. Winter, Treasurer; and Mr. W. H. Boer, Vice Secretary-Treasurer. The alternates are: Mr. G. Dornbos, Mr. G. B. Tinholt, Rev. W. Van Peurse, Mr. B. De Jager, and Rev. T. Yff. We respectfully call Synod's attention to the fact that the name of Mr. Fred L. Winter, Treasurer of the Board, is not included as a member of the Committee as mentioned in the 1952 Acts of Synod, Art. 190, VI, A, 18.

We wish to acknowledge the many faithful services of the Rev. J. O. Bouwsma who served the Fund so long and so well as Secretary of the Board since the beginning of our Plan in 1940. Rev. B. Van Someren's sound advice and competent leadership as Vice-President for six years is also acknowledged. Both Rev. Bouwsma and Rev. Van Someren retired from the Board last year.

The term of appointment of members Mr. N. Hendrikse and Mr. F. L. Winter, and as alternate Mr. G. Dornbos, expire at this time.

**PART II**

**INFORMATION ON PENSIONERS**

We have been informed of the emeritation of the following: Dr. Ralph Bronkema by Classis Orange City on the grounds of "ill health and the inability to perform his work"; emeritation to become effective June 30, 1952. The Rev. J. D. Pikaart by Classis Minnesota on the grounds of "age, years of service and illness of wife." Emeritation became effective September 30, 1952.

Classis Grand Rapids East, at its meeting January 15, 1953, declared the Rev. L. Oostendorp eligible for a call.

The Rev. P. Jonker passed away September 29, 1952. His widow became a pensioner. The following pensioners have died since our last report: Rev. S. Struyck, Rev. G. Vander Riet, and Mrs. B. Nagel.

The number of pensioners, as of February 1, 1953, was 43 ministers and 83 widows.

The Synodical Amendment as to the pension of a widow with a dependent child or children (Acts of Synod 1952, Art. 92, III, 4, pages 37, 38) went into effect January 1, 1953. This liberalized rule enables the Board to provide help to five widows on behalf of thirteen children under 19 years of age. We can say that this help is greatly appreciated by the widows.

### PART III

#### THE MINISTERS' PENSION FUND

##### 1. *Average Salary.*

According to the rules adopted by Synod the average salary of the ministers in active service shall be determined on or before March 1st. A statement with the names of 375 ministers and the amount of the salary of each is available for Synod. The average salary of the 375 reported is \$4,020.99.

The 1953 pension of a minister — 50% of the average salary computed to the nearest multiple of 10 — is \$2,010, an increase of \$100. The 1953 pension of a widow — 40% of the average salary computed to the nearest multiple of 10 — is \$1,610, an increase of \$80.

##### 2. *Budget for 1954.*

#### Anticipated Receipts

Quotas (41,045 families at 4.00).....	\$164,180.00
Ministers, 3½% of Salary .....	52,500.00
Interest .....	1,600.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$218,280.00</b>

#### Anticipated Disbursements

Pensions, Ministers (43 at \$2,010).....	\$ 86,430.00
Pensions, Widows (83) .....	114,348.83
Dependent Allowance to Widows .....	2,400.00
Administrative Expense .....	1,500.00
Additional Pensions .....	12,870.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$217,548.83</b>
<b>Balance .....</b>	<b>\$ 731.17</b>

The quota for 1953 is \$4.00. We recommend an increase of \$ .25 in the quota for 1954, raising it to \$4.25. The increase should raise \$10,000. The last three years we ran in the red, for each year the disbursements exceeded the receipts. The cash on hand at the close of 1949 was \$35,044.08 and at the close of 1952 it was only \$14,974.25. This balance is not sufficiently large to operate in a satisfactory and safe manner. The Board feels that this trend toward the depletion of the small balance on hand should at least be stopped, and if at all possible even reversed. Furthermore, the quotas are not met by all the congregations; some, as the Canadian Churches, cannot meet it in full. Note that the anticipated quotas is based on the actual number of

families in the 1953 yearbook. It must also be considered that the 1954 pensions will in all probability be higher. The increase in the pension (as noted in 1 above) requires an increase in the quota. Since the pensions are geared to the salary as the salaries increase the pensions also increase. Approximately 30% of the increase in pensions is absorbed by the increase in the 3½% salary contributions of the ministers; the rest of the increase, about 70%, should be raised by the quota.

3.

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952

**CURRENT PENSION FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

Quotas from Classical Treasurers.....	\$183,155.43
Ministers, 3½% of Salary.....	49,625.62
Interest .....	1,684.35
Miscellaneous .....	213.62

Total Receipts .....	\$184,679.02
Balance January 1, 1952.....	17,808.25
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$202,487.27</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Pension to Ministers .....	\$ 78,062.90
Pension to Widows .....	107,876.25
Administrative Expense .....	1,573.87

Total Disbursements .....	\$187,513.02
Balance December 31, 1952.....	\$ 14,974.25

**RESERVE PENSION FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

Increment on U. S. Bond .....	\$ 260.00
Balance January 1, 1952.....	76,610.00

Total .....	\$ 76,870.00
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

None	
Balance December 31, 1952.....	\$ 76,870.00

The \$76,870.00 is invested in United States Securities in accordance with a Synodical decision.

Article X of the rules adopted by Synod reads: "All income from legacies, unless otherwise specified, shall be divided as follows: one-third to be put in the Relief Fund and the remaining two-thirds in the Pension Fund; and shall be kept as reserve Funds. Provided, however, that in event of special emergency the Board of Trustees may borrow from these Reserve Funds to meet such emergency; but shall repay the same as soon as funds are available."

PART IV  
THE MINISTERS' RELIEF FUND

1. This fund was established by Synod to aid those ministers, widows, and orphans whose pensions are inadequate because of adverse conditions. It is maintained by free-will offerings of the congregations. The Rules authorize the Board to inform the Church when an offering is needed. We are thankful and happy that once again we can report that it is not necessary to request a free-will offering this year, 1953, since there is a good balance on hand.

2.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952  
CURRENT RELIEF FUND

RECEIPTS

Classical Treasurers .....	\$ 113.76
Interest .....	500.00
Miscellaneous .....	100.00
Balance Dec. 31, 1951.....	10,698.30
Total .....	\$11,412.06

DISBURSEMENTS

To Ministers .....	\$ 1,605.00
To Widows .....	1,670.00
Total .....	3,275.00
Balance Dec. 31, 1952 .....	\$ 8,137.06

RESERVE RELIEF FUND

RECEIPTS

Increment on U. S. Bonds.....	\$ 827.30
Balance Jan. 1, 1952.....	45,336.20
Total .....	\$46,163.50

DISBURSEMENTS

None

The \$46,163.50 is invested in U. S. Bonds.

A detailed statement of the disbursements shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee of Synod and, if Synod so desires, to Synod itself in Executive session. This is in accordance with the rules adopted by Synod.

The Board has sought to administer the fund as reasonably as possible, and again this year the cost has been kept well below one per cent of the monies administered.

PART VI

MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ATTENTION

1. The recommendation to increase the quota \$ .25 for 1954, raising it to \$4.25 Cf III, 2, above.

2. The appointment of two new members and one alternate. Cf. I above.

3. The Board recommends that Synod grant dependency allowance for children physically or mentally incapacitated on or before their 19th birthday, by augmenting the pension of a widow at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child beyond its 19th birthday. The amendment would read as follows: "unless physically or mentally incapacitated and so certified by two competent physicians appointed by the Board of Trustees, in which case their pension shall be continued." Art. 92, III, B, 4, f, on page 37 of the 1952 Acts of Synod would then read: "The pension of a widow with a dependent child or dependent children shall be augmented at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child until the dependent has reached the 19th birthday, unless physically or mentally incapacitated and so certified by two competent physicians appointed by the Board of Trustees, in which case their pension shall be continued. However, the pension to such a widow shall not exceed 50% of the average salary of our ministers in active service."

Upon inquiry the Board has been appraised of four children of widow pensioners who would be covered by this amendment, should Synod concur in our recommendation.

It is recommended that this amendment be made retroactive to January 1, 1953, at which time the widow pension for children under 19 years of age was augmented.

Humbly submitted,

The Ministers' Pension and Relief Administration,  
F. HANDLOGTEN, *Secretary*

February 5, 1953

Board of Trustees  
THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Gentlemen:

accounts and records of the Treasurer of the Ministers' Pension and Relief

In accordance with your request, we have made an examination of the Administration for the year ended December 31, 1952, and submit our report thereon as contained in the comments, exhibits and schedules listed in the index on the preceding page.

Respectfully submitted,  
MAIHOFFER, MOORE & DELONG  
*Certified Public Accountants*

#### SCOPE OF EXAMINATION AND GENERAL COMMENTS

In the course of our examination, we verified the cash on deposit in the banks by reconciliation of the ledger balances with the amounts stated in certificates received from the depositories.

We did not count the cash on hand at December 31, 1952, but verified the fact that the total amount of \$8,036.26, representing receipts of December 31, 1952, was deposited intact on January 3, 1952.

We traced recorded cash receipts from their source to their deposit in the bank and recorded cash disbursements were vouched by checking all cancelled checks against the check register.

We inspected the United States Government bonds as held investments by the Administration and either verified the amount of interest received thereon or set up the increase in redemption values at December 31, 1952.

All monies collected were deposited in the Hackley Union National Bank, Muskegon, Michigan. Each of the two funds maintained by the administration has a claim against monies and investments for the amount shown as the balance of such fund in Schedule A-3.

Footings and postings were checked sufficiently to establish their accuracy.

We did not inspect the minutes of the secretary.

We represent below a comparative summary of the operations of the two funds maintained by the Administration for the four years ended December 31, 1952:

#### PENSION FUND

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31			
	1949	1950	1951	1952
BALANCES — JAN. 1.	\$ 83,285.75	\$ 106,134.08	\$ 94,722.88	\$ 94,418.25
RECEIPTS .....	169,655.73	140,390.64	173,467.86	184,939.02
Totals .....	\$252,941.48	\$246,524.72	\$268,190.74	\$279,357.27
DISBURSEMENTS .....	146,807.40	151,801.84	173,772.49	187,513.02
BALANCES — DEC. 31	\$106,134.08	\$ 94,722.88	\$ 94,418.25	\$ 91,844.25

(SCHEDULE A-3)

#### REPRESENTED BY:

Cash on hand and in Banks .....	\$ 35,044.08	\$ 23,372.88	\$ 17,808.25	\$ 14,974.25
Investments .....	71,090.00	71,350.00	76,610.00	76,870.00
Totals (as above).....	\$106,134.08	\$ 94,722.88	\$ 94,418.25	\$ 91,844.25

#### RELIEF FUND

BALANCES — JAN. 1 ..	\$ 54,624.49	\$ 55,717.48	\$ 56,363.29	\$ 56,034.50
RECEIPTS .....	2,983.99	1,880.81	4,351.21	1,541.06
Totals .....	\$ 57,608.48	\$ 57,598.29	\$ 60,714.50	\$ 57,575.56
DISBURSEMENTS .....	1,891.00	1,235.00	4,680.00	3,275.00
BALANCES — DEC. 31 ..	\$ 55,717.48	\$ 56,363.29	\$ 56,034.50	\$ 54,300.56

(SCHEDULE A-3)

#### REPRESENTED BY:

Cash on Hand and in Banks .....	\$ 14,817.08	\$ 14,281.19	\$ 10,698.30	\$ 8,137.06
Investments .....	40,900.40	42,082.10	45,336.20	46,163.50
Totals (as above).....	\$ 55,717.48	\$ 56,363.29	\$ 56,034.50	\$ 54,300.56

## EXHIBIT A

## THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

## BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1952

## ASSETS

## CURRENT ASSETS

Cash on Hand and in Banks (Schedule A-1).....	\$ 23,111.31
INVESTMENTS (SCHEDULE A-2)	
United States Savings Bonds — Series F and G.....	123,033.50
TOTAL ASSETS .....	<u>\$146,144.81</u>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

CURRENT LIABILITIES .....	\$ —
FUND BALANCES (SCHEDULE A-3)	
Pension Fund .....	\$91,844.25
Relief Fund .....	54,300.56
	<u>146,144.81</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES.....	<u>\$146,144.81</u>

## SCHEDULE A-1

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 1952

	Fund		Totals
	Pension	Relief	
CASH BALANCE — JAN. 1, 1952 .....	\$ 17,808.25	\$ 10,698.30	\$ 28,506.55
CASH RECEIPTS (EXHIBIT B) .....	184,679.02	713.76	185,392.78
Totals .....	<u>\$202,487.27</u>	<u>\$ 11,412.06</u>	<u>\$213,899.33</u>
CASH DISBURSEMENTS (EXHIBIT C).....	187,513.02	3,275.00	190,788.02
CASH BALANCE — DEC. 31, 1952 ...	\$ 14,974.25	\$ 8,137.06	\$ 23,111.31
			(Exhibit A)
REPRESENTED BY			
Cash on Hand Awaiting Deposit .....			\$ 8,036.26
Cash in Hackley Union National Bank .....			9,850.73
Cash in Old Kent Bank .....			5,224.32
Total (As Above) .....			<u>\$ 23,111.31</u>



THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION  
of the Christian Reformed Church

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS — December 31, 1952

DESCRIPTION				Dated	Due	Bond Numbers	Denomination	Cost Plus Increment	Pension	Relief
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	10-1-41	10-1-53	V45931-32G	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series F	4-1-42	4-1-54	C318283-84F	100.00	189.00	....	....	189.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series F	4-1-42	4-1-54	C318292F	100.00	94.50	....	....	94.50	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series F	4-1-42	4-1-54	M243773-88F	1,000.00	15,120.00	....	....	15,120.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series F	4-1-42	4-1-54	M243790F-M243799F	1,000.00	1,890.00	....	....	1,890.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	3-1-43	3-1-55	V221843-44G	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series F	3-1-44	3-1-56	V226184-87F	5,000.00	17,740.00	8,870.00	....	8,870.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	3-1-45	3-1-57	V558662-63G	5,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	....	5,000.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	3-1-45	3-1-57	M3524284-85G	1,000.00	2,000.00	....	....	2,000.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	3-1-45	3-1-57	D1830213-G	500.00	500.00	....	....	500.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	2-1-46	2-1-58	M4447276-79G	1,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	2-1-46	2-1-58	C4172299-G	100.00	100.00	100.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	3-1-46	3-1-58	Y659789G	5,000.00	5,000.00	....	....	5,000.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-46	4-1-58	C4209470G	100.00	100.00	100.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-47	4-1-59	C47631266-C4762787-9G	100.00	400.00	400.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-47	4-1-59	M5622828G	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-47	4-1-59	M5622941G	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-47	4-1-59	M5622943G	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	4-1-47	4-1-59	X796995G	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	2-1-48	2-1-60	Y878817G	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	5-1-48	5-1-60	V899129G	5,000.00	5,000.00	....	....	5,000.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	7-1-48	7-1-60	M6540108-92G	1,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	7-1-48	7-1-60	C5221740-43G	100.00	400.00	400.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	2-1-49	2-1-61	Y947710-11G	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	5-1-51	5-1-63	V1086514G	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	....	....	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	5-1-51	5-1-63	M7955584-5G	1,000.00	2,000.00	....	....	2,000.00	
United States of America	Savings Bonds — Series G	5-1-51	5-1-63	O3535245G	500.00	500.00	....	....	500.00	
TOTALS								\$123,033.50	\$76,870.00	\$46,163.50

(EXHIBIT A)

SCHEDULE A-3

**STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES**  
December 31, 1952

	Fund		
	Pension	Relief	Totals
FUND BALANCES — JAN. 1, 1952.....	\$ 94,418.25	\$ 56,034.50	\$150,452.75
FUND RECEIPTS (EXHIBIT B) .....	184,939.02	1,541.06	186,480.08
Totals .....	\$279,357.27	\$ 57,575.56	\$336,932.83
FUND DISBURSEMENTS			
(EXHIBIT C) .....	187,513.02	3,275.00	190,788.02
FUND BALANCES — DEC. 31, 1952			
(EXHIBIT A) .....	\$ 91,844.25	\$ 54,300.56	\$146,144.81

**STATEMENT OF FUND RECEIPTS**  
Year Ended December 31, 1952

EXHIBIT B

	Fund		
	Pension	Relief	Totals
CASH RECEIPTS			
Classes Treasurers .....	\$133,155.43	\$ 113.76	\$133,269.19
Ministers .....	49,625.62	—	49,625.62
Interest .....	1,684.35	500.00	2,184.35
Miscellaneous .....	213.62	100.00	313.62
Totals (Schedule A-1) .....	\$184,679.02	\$ 713.76	\$185,392.78
OTHER ADDITIONS			
Increment on United States			
Savings Bonds — Series F .....	260.00	827.30	1,087.30
Totals (Schedule A-3) .....	\$184,939.02	\$ 1,541.06	\$186,480.08

**STATEMENT OF FUND DISBURSEMENTS**  
Year Ended December 31, 1952

EXHIBIT C

	Fund		
	Pension	Relief	Totals
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
Payment to Beneficiaries			
Ministers .....	\$ 78,062.90	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 79,667.90
Widows .....	107,876.25	1,670.00	109,546.25
Salaries			
Secretary .....	300.00	—	300.00
Treasurer .....	300.00	—	300.00
Clerical .....	218.00	—	218.00
Traveling Expense .....	172.25	—	172.25
Professional Services .....	167.50	—	167.50
Bond Premium — Treasurer			
and Clerical .....	70.50	—	70.50
Safety Deposit Box Rental .....	7.20	—	7.20
Bank Charges .....	9.66	—	9.66
Postage and Office Supplies .....	326.76	—	326.76
State Privilege Fee .....	2.00	—	2.00
Totals (Schedule A-1)			
(Schedule A-3) .....	\$187,513.02	\$ 3,275.00	\$190,788.02

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 32-A**  
(Arts. 82, 96)

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**THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF  
ADMINISTRATION**

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ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

We wish to inform Synod of the following matters that have come to our attention since the forwarding of our regular annual report under date of February 17, 1953, and which is included in the 1953 Agenda.

We have been informed of the emeritation of the following: Rev. John G. Vande Lune by Classis Sioux Center on the grounds of "Forty years of service in the Gospel Ministry and age. He feels that he should be relieved from the responsibilities of a regular charge." Rev. John L. Schaver by Classis Chicago North on the grounds of ill health. The emeritation of Rev. Vande Lune is to become effective August 1, 1953. Classis Chicago North made no decision as to the effective date of Rev. Schaver's emeritation.

The following pensioners have died: Mrs. Jennie Dekker, April 15, 1953, and Dr. S. Volbeda May 16, 1953. Dr. Volbeda leaves his widow as pensioner.

Rev. and Mrs. Martin Huizenga died on February 20th and 21st, respectively, leaving their one orphaned daughter, Rosalie, age 10. Rosalie Huizenga is now receiving the orphan's pension.

Humbly submitted,

The Ministers' Pension & Relief Administration  
F. HANDLOGTON, *Secretary*

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 33

(Art. 135)

## THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

## ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The Committee on Education herewith submits its report on matters pertaining to Catechesis, Sunday School, and Youth Bible Conferences. In respect to Catechesis a curriculum is presented which has been revised according to the decision of the Synod of 1952. Compendium revision has been carried forward somewhat, also according to the decision of last year's Synod, and the Committee hopes to present its revision in full next year. In respect to Sunday School matters the Committee on Education and the Publication Committee have reached full agreement and submit herewith a joint report on the preparation of the new Sunday School materials authorized by the Synod of 1952. Regarding Youth Bible Conferences a brief preliminary report is submitted at this time.

The entire Committee has met three times during the past year and sub-committees have met at numerous times intervening. The Committee is grateful to God for His guidance, a guidance which has come in part through many helpful expressions of opinion from individuals and consistories. It is evident that the work of the Committee commands the sympathetic interest of the Church at large.

## I. CATECHESIS

A. A PROPOSED CURRICULUM FOR NORMAL CATECHESIS, *that is where catechumens attend the Christian School.*

1. MANDATE: The Synod of 1951 approved the following scheme as the minimum to be taught in the catechism class: the Bible as history of revelation; Reformed doctrine and ethics; the Christian Reformed Church: History, Missions and Polity. (*Acts*, 1951, pp. 57, 364) In 1952 the Committee proposed a curriculum in line with this mandate. The Synod of 1952 referred the proposed curriculum "back to the Committee on Education for further consideration and study" and "to the consistories for constructive criticism". (*Acts*, 1952, p. 72)

2. PURPOSE: This curriculum is proposed for Churches where all or nearly all the children attend the Christian School. A supplementary curriculum adds courses to be taught in Churches where there is no Christian School. The over-all purpose of this curriculum is to teach the child what he needs to know in order to be prepared to make profession of faith in the Christian Reformed Church, to be a well-informed member, to take an active part in its work, to be a ready witness to its teachings, and to live a full-orbed Christian life in agree-

ment with those teachings. The material will be tied in with the Bible and with the official creeds of our Church, and will have as its object the child in the present American religious and cultural situation.

3. PLAN: The proposed curriculum is divided into 6 two-year classes, and will therefore require 12 years to complete: from the 3rd grade up to the 20th year (through the 19th year). Since each two-year class is a unit, and should be taught in the same sequence to every child, it is recommended that every Church begin catechism classes every other year, so that the same pupils will stay together all through their catechism courses. Allowance will then have to be made for pupils who become eligible for catechism one year after a class has been started. It is suggested that such pupils wait a year, so that, at any one time, pupils of the 3rd and 4th grade would begin catechism together.

4. RECONSIDERATION: Your committee prepared and distributed the following questionnaire. It was sent to each of our 390 consistories, with additional copies for each consistory member for his personal perusal and study prior to consistorial consideration. In addition, each minister was invited to send in a personal reply.

Response on the part of our Churches was gratifying. While it is a cause for regret that scores of consistories did not bring themselves to respond to this important inquiry, the replies which were received were of great help and encouragement. In all there were about 220 replies received. Most replies included comments considerably beyond a more affirmative or negative. Of the 220 replies, it is estimated that about 50 were directly prepared and written by ministers, the others in some way alluding to consistorial consideration and having been sent in by clerks of consistories.

a. The questionnaire sent out was as follows:

1) What is your general reaction to the proposed curriculum for normal catechesis?

2) Do you think the catechism curriculum should include, either as a complete course or as part of a course, a study of the following material:

a) The Christian Reformed Church: history, worship, government, missions, etc.?

b) The Belgic Confession?

c) The Canons of Dort?

d) The doctrinal implications of Biblical history?

e) The Christian witness, including the American religious world (denominations, sects, cults) and our impact on the world?

f) Christian living, applying the principles of Christian ethics to present-day life?

3) Do you think the proposed catechism curriculum provides sufficient time for the study of the compendium?

4) What is your general reaction to the specimen of compendium revision submitted to the Synod of 1952?

b. A study of the questionnaire replies reveals that there is general approval of the committee's intention to provide a new curriculum toward the improvement of catechesis in our Church. A large majority of consistories favor adding most of the proposed subject areas. (e.g. missions, Church history, Church government, ethics, Christian witness, etc.). This is also true respecting courses on the Canons of Dort and the Belgic Confession, and the one on the Covenant. However, there is also a general sentiment that the proposed *structure of courses* needed modification. The following particulars may be cited:

1) The Compendium is not satisfactorily dealt with:

- a) Insufficient time is allotted to study of the Compendium.
- b) Compendium study is not carried forward to a sufficiently advanced age. (i.e., to the time when profession of faith is usually made).
- c) Compendium study is begun at too early an age.

2) Too many courses are added covering materials which should be studied in Church societies or could be included in basic Compendium courses. For example, ethics, sects, the Christian witness, etc., could be dealt with in Compendium study at the appropriate points. More advanced study of these matters should be included in Young Peoples Societies, etc.

c. In view of these evaluations and comments, the Committee has made the following changes, and offers a revised curriculum for Synod's approval:

1) Bible Doctrine for the first four years, grades 3 through 6 (changed only in time sequence).

2) The Christian Reformed Church and its Work, grade 7 (decreased from 2 years to 1).

3) Compendium, grades 8 through 12 (extended to the time when profession of faith is customarily made and increased from 3 years to 5, including areas such as the Christian life and the Christian witness under appropriate sections of the Compendium).

4) God's Covenant with Man, age 18 (formerly scheduled at age 17).

5) Survey of Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort, age 19 (added as a separate course) -

NOTE: When the catechumen makes profession of faith before the entire curriculum has been studied, the consistory should require that the curriculum be completed.

## 5. THE REVISED CURRICULUM:

a. Following is a *brief oversight* of the entire revised curriculum:

## FIRST TWO-YEAR CLASS: ELEMENTARY BIBLE DOCTRINE

Course No. 1, Elementary Bible Doctrine I (Grade 3, Age 8)

Course No. 2, Elementary Bible Doctrine II (Grade 4, Age 9)

## SECOND TWO-YEAR CLASS: BIBLE DOCTRINE

Course No. 3, Bible Doctrine I (Grade 5, Age 10)

Course No. 4, Bible Doctrine II (Grade 6, Age 11)

## THIRD TWO-YEAR CLASS: THE CHURCH AND THE COMPENDIUM

Course No. 5, The Christian Reformed Church and Its Work  
(Grade 7, Age 12)

Course No. 6, Compendium I (Grade 8, Age 13)

## FOURTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: THE COMPENDIUM

Course No. 7, Compendium II (Grade 9, Age 14)

Course No. 8, Compendium III (Grade 10, Age 15)

## FIFTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: ADVANCED COMPENDIUM

Course No. 9, Advanced Compendium I (Grade 11, Age 16)

Course No. 10, Advanced Compendium II (Grade 12, Age 17)

## SIXTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: REFORMED DOCTRINE

Course No. 11, God's Covenant With Man

Course No. 12, Survey of the Belgic Confession and the Canons  
of Dort (Age 19)b. THE REVISED CURRICULUM *defined and described*:1. *First Two-Year Classes*: Elementary Bible Doctrine (Grades 3 and 4)a. *Courses*:

1. Course No. 1: Elementary Bible Doctrine I (Grade 3, age 8)

2. Course No. 2: Elementary Bible Doctrine II (Grade 4, age 9)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses will be to introduce the child to God's saving truth as set forth in the Bible, illustrated by Bible stories; to start in the child a life-long habit of Bible reading; to give the child simple Bible verses to memorize; and by this means to begin to create in the child, with the blessing of the Holy Spirit, a knowledge of sin, a trust in Jesus as his Saviour, thankfulness to God for His great love, a desire for Christian service, and a realization that true service needs constant prayerfulness.

c. DESCRIPTION: These two courses would introduce the child to doctrine, which would be taught in terms of the Bible stories with which the child is familiar. In an elementary way, basic doctrines of the Bible would be taught by means of brief, simple statements in the child's own words. These doctrines would be illustrated by stories from the child's own experience, and by Bible stories with which he is familiar, thus relating what is to be learned to what is already known. Pictures, either photographs or reproductions of famous paintings, should be used, with comments to tie them in with the lesson. As to content, these Elementary Bible Doctrine courses would cover such ques-

tions as: Who is God? What is He like? What does He do? What is sin? Who is Christ? What is Faith? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be born again? What does it mean to follow Christ? What is heaven? What is hell? The order of this material is to be adapted to the thought processes of the child at this age.

NOTE: Various types of test forms and exercises should be used, e.g., true-false questions, multiple-choice tests, cross-out statements, matching and pairing, completion questions, essay type questions, problem-solving types of questions, questions applying material to life-situations and relating it to other Biblical or creedal material, etc. It is suggested that various types of exercises be included with each lesson in this entire curriculum, suitable for the age group addressed and subject matter covered. A variety of exercises will make these books adaptable to different types of programs and suitable for difference preferences on the part of catechism teachers.

2. *Second Two-Year Class*: Bible Doctrine (Grades 5 and 6)

a. Courses:

1. Course No. 3: Bible Doctrine I (Grade 5, age 10)

2. Course No. 4: Bible Doctrine II (Grade 6, age 11)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses would be to build on what has been taught in the Elementary Bible Doctrine course in grades 3 and 4, to give the pupil an understanding of how doctrine develops through the Bible. In this course the child is being taught doctrine, not within the framework of the Compendium, but within the framework of the entire Bible. Thus he not only becomes better acquainted with the Bible, but learns to associate the doctrines the Church teaches him directly with the Bible which is their source. (a more thorough course on Bible doctrine is presented under Course No. 11)

c. DESCRIPTION: These courses will teach the child the Bible as history of revelation. Their aim should be to teach, not just Bible stories, nor just Bible history, but Bible doctrine, as unfolded progressively from Genesis to Revelation. One might call these courses "the doctrinal implications of Bible history." They would attempt to portray for the pupil the living drama of God's redemptive work in history.

There should be memory questions, lesson explanations adapted to the mentality of these ages, tying in with their knowledge of Bible history. Memorization of Bible verses and Psalter-Hymnal numbers. (At this point there could be introduced material on stories of some of our best-known hymns and psalm-settings, to create greater interest in our hymns and psalms.) The exercises would require the child to make use of the Bible and to begin reflecting on the doctrinal meaning of Biblical events. There should again be good Bible pictures, with comments.



3. *Third Two-Year Class*: The Christian Reformed Church and the Compendium (Grades 7 and 8)

a. Course No. 5: The Christian Reformed Church and Its Work (Grade 7, Age 12)

1. AIM: The aim of this course is to acquaint the child with his Church and its program, and also with the missionary outreach of his denomination; to inculcate in the child a love for his Church, his Christian home, his Sunday School, and his Christian School; and to build in him not only a genuine interest in missions, but a vital love for the cause.

2. DESCRIPTION: This course would teach the child what he needs to know about his Church at this age. It would cover such subjects as: The Meaning of Worship, The Work of the Pastor, The Work of the Church Officers, Why Sunday School and Catechism, Stewardship, the Christian Home (and the child's obligations to it); the Church itself: history, government, size, geographical distribution of its members, locations of its college and seminary; its Mission program: home missions, city missions, radio, Canada, and foreign missions, including Indian missions, Nigeria, Japan, South America, Ceylon, China, new field in India, perhaps Indonesia. This material should be explained in an interesting way, with copious illustrations and maps, geared to the mind of a 12 year old child. Brief memory questions could be included. The explanations should tie in this material with Bible history and life situations as much as possible. We may capitalize at this point on the child's interest in and studies of geography. (Note: This is the time when the child is studying world geography in school). There will be memorization of Bible verses and Psalter-Hymnal numbers, Bible study and short prayers, pictures with comments, and a variety of exercises.

b. Course No. 6: The Compendium I (Grade 8, age 13)

1. AIM: The aim of this course is to introduce the child to the Compendium and to cover approximately one-third of the Compendium. This course, together with the two courses that follow, should give the pupil a thorough knowledge of the Compendium as a brief summary of doctrine derived from the Heidelberg Catechism, based on the Scriptures. The deeper aim of these courses (as well as of all the courses in this curriculum) is, with the blessing of the Spirit, to lead the pupil personally to accept his covenant obligations, trust in Christ as his Saviour and resolve to follow Him faithfully as Lord.

2. DESCRIPTION: These courses would be aimed at giving the child a thorough grasp of the Compendium. The New Compendium now being revised would be used as the text to be memorized. There would be frequent reviews, with various types of test questions, to make sure

that this material is well learned. In the explanation, the Scriptural basis of the Compendium should be emphasized, as well as its vital relation to the life of the pupils at this age. Scripture passages proving the doctrine should be reviewed or learned. The material should be so treated as to prepare the pupil for witnessing. Various types of exercises should be appended. These exercises should stress not mere rote memory, but comprehension of the material and relation of the material to the Bible and to life situations.

4. *Fourth Two-Year Class*: The Compendium

a. Courses:

1. Course No. 7, Compendium II (grade 9, Age 14)
2. Course No. 8, Compendium III (Grade 10, Age 15)

b. AIM: As stated under Course No. 6.

c. DESCRIPTION: As stated under course No. 6. In course No. 7 approximately the second one-third of the Compendium is studied, taking the pupil to the section of the Compendium which deals with gratitude. In course No. 8 the section of Christian gratitude is studied. The Moral Law of God is studied with particular emphasis upon its ethical implication for Christian life. Special stress would be placed upon the problems of a 15 year old child as he enters upon a period of life when he shall face some of his greatest temptations. The purpose of this study will be to instill in his youthful mind the principles of conduct which shall mold his Christian living. The Lord's Prayer is studied not only as a guide to teach the child the true art of prayer but the material content of each petition would be so presented and elaborated as to create interests in the youthful mind in conformity with the prayer. For example, the petition: "Thy kingdom come," would present the opportunity of teaching kingdom interests and principles.

5. *Fifth Two-Year Class*: Advanced Compendium

a. Courses

1. Course No. 9: Advanced Compendium I (Grade 11, age 16)
2. Course No. 10: Advanced Compendium II (Grade 12, age 17)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses would be to review the Compendium and, by means of repeating the material content of that which has been previously studied, to more deeply impress upon the mind of the pupil the content and meaning of the Compendium. At this more advanced age a more thorough study can be made of the Compendium, building upon that which has been taught in the previous courses. The purpose of these courses is to prepare the youth for profession of faith and intelligent Church membership.

c. DESCRIPTION: These courses would once again study the Compendium in the light of Scripture truth and would also be tied in

with the Belgic confession and Canons of Dort. Special emphasis would once again be placed upon a thorough memorization of the Compendium together with an adequate working knowledge of its material content. Lesson explanation should be adapted to the mentality of pupil ages. Various types of exercises should be appended which would require thorough home work for class preparation. In these exercises constant use of the Bible and the creeds would be required.

6. *Sixth Two-Year Class*: Reformed Doctrine

a. Course No. 11: God's Covenant With Man. (Age 18)

1. AIM: The aim of this course would be to teach Reformed doctrine with the covenant as organizing principle, and to help the pupil realize his covenant obligations. Since the covenant is so basic in our Reformed interpretation of Scripture, it is here singled out for special study. This course is intended to enrich covenant consciousness at a time when the catechumen has professed his faith or is about to do so.

2. DESCRIPTION: This course will teach young people Reformed Doctrine, organized in a different way than in the Compendium. The following scheme, suggested by "Heilig ze in uw Waarheid" by Van Maare and Spier (Kok, Kampen, 1940) will indicate the general plan: The revelation of the covenant, the God of the covenant, the decrees which underlie the covenant, creation—the foundation of the covenant, providence—the maintenance of the covenant, the covenant with Adam, the breaking of the covenant, the renewal of the covenant, the new covenant-head (Christ), the blessings of the covenant, the rule of the covenant, fellowship with the Covenant-God (prayer), the covenant people (the Church), the administration of the means of the covenant, guarding the holiness of the covenant (discipline), covenantal living, covenantal homes, covenantal child-training, the consummation of the covenant. The material in this course should be tied in with the progress and development of doctrine in the Bible. Memory work and Bible passages dealing with the covenant, explanatory material, exercises and questions for class discussion should be included.

a. Course No. 12: Survey of the Belgic Confessions and the Canons of Dort. (Age 19)

1. AIM: The aim of this course would be to make young people conversant with the content of the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort. Particular emphasis should be placed upon the Scriptural validity of Reformed Doctrine, and to foster a wholesome Reformed consciousness over against a growing doctrinal indistinction so prevalent in the world today. This course would aim at directing the life of the catechumen into an effective witness.

2. DESCRIPTION: While it is readily admitted that these creeds cannot be mastered in the compass of one year, the course would

be so planned as to give a working knowledge of them. The material would be so presented as to stimulate class discussion on the part of the student and thus to put into exercise the doctrine that has been learned in previous courses. Much use would be made of studying Reformed doctrine by comparing it with religious creeds prevalent in the world today.

## 6. FURTHER SUGGESTIONS.

a. *Length of season:* Your Committee feels that the usual catechism season should be considerably lengthened in order to allow for the completion of this curriculum, probably to a 9-month or 10-month term. (This has already been urged by the Synod of 1947.) More specific recommendations in this connection will be made later, as the courses are worked out in detail.

b) *Textbooks for these courses:* Your Committee feels that textbooks for the above courses should be prepared under the supervision of a single committee or board, so as to insure uniformity and continuity, and to avoid overlapping. The committee charged with carrying out this work should be empowered to engage writers for these catechism textbooks, and should have funds at its disposal for carrying out this program. Writing textbooks of this sort will require the full time for certain periods, of experts in these fields, and cannot be properly done by persons who, while writing such manuals, must also carry on a full-time program of pastoral work or teaching. Your committee suggests that such textbooks should pass through several hands before being approved (for example, one expert on subject matter, another expert on teaching the particular age-level involved, and another expert on writing and style). Such textbooks, after having been written, revised, perhaps rewritten, and tentatively approved, should be classroom-tested for a period of time (perhaps a year or two) before being put into permanent form. The final textbooks should be attractively printed and durably bound with hard covers, like the textbooks which children are accustomed to using in school.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That Synod approve the proposed curriculum for normal catechesis. *Grounds:*

1) This proposed curriculum executes the decisions of the Synods of 1946 (*Acts*, 91-92), 1947 (*Acts*, pp. 56-57) and 1951 (*Acts*, pp. 57, 364). Note particularly the following: "Prepare, in prospectus, a course of study which can be used as an integrated whole throughout our Catechetical courses from Primary to Compendium levels" (1947), and "There is urgent need for the improvement of our catechetical work in view of changes in pedagogical methods" (1946).

2) This proposed curriculum is integrated with the course of study

generally followed in our Christian Schools. (See NUCS, *Course of Study*).

3) This proposed curriculum reflects the opinions of our consistories and ministers as expressed in the questionnaires. (See point "4" above)

b. That Synod empower the Committee on Education to provide for and supervise the preparation of a set of catechism textbooks which will embody the foregoing curriculum, and which will be intended for uniform use throughout the Churches of our denomination.

*Grounds:*

1) This is in compliance with the decision of the Synod of 1947: "Prepare in prospectus a course of study . . . with a view, if Synod approves the prospectus, of publishing a uniform set of lessons and study manuals." (*Acts*, p. 57, 3b)

2) There is a dire need for uniformity in catechism instruction in our denomination as indicated by the many wide divergencies which appear in a questionnaire study made by the Committee on Education. (See *Acts*, 1950, pp. 354-356)

3) There are no textbooks available at present to carry out the proposed curriculum.

4) The preparation of textbooks by a single committee should insure uniformity, continuity, and integration in the curriculum proposed, and should avoid overlapping.

B. A PROPOSED AUXILIARY CURRICULUM — *for catechesis where there is no Christian School.*

1. MANDATE: The Synod of 1951 declared that the following general areas must be covered either in the catechism class or in the Christian School:

a. *Bible History and Content*

b. *Church History*

c. "*Kingdom Perspectives*" — Calvinism as a world and life view (*Acts*, pp. 57, 364)

2. PURPOSE: Synod has instructed this Committee to correlate the catechetical curriculum with that in the Christian School. Therefore it is plain that where there is no Christian School, a supplementary curriculum is necessary for the catechism class, in order to provide the study of Bible and Church History which is otherwise done in the School, and to provide something of the Christian perspectives upon all of life which the School affords by its distinctive teaching of every subject. The general aim of this auxiliary curriculum is to assure a developing background of knowledge adequate for successful pursuit of the regular catechism curriculum and achievement of its ultimate goals.

3. PLAN: This curriculum, when worked out in detail as courses, will be coordinated insofar as possible with the regular catechism cur-

riculum, so that it can be taught in a supplementary period adjacent to the regular period, or simply by extending the regular period somewhat. In this way the additional work for the minister or other teacher can be kept to a minimum. Furthermore the early years of this supplementary curriculum can be adequately taught by parents in the home. Following is a brief oversight of the curriculum proposed:

- a. *Grades 1-4* — A four year course of Bible Stories (taught in the home)
- b. *Grades 5-8* — Four courses in Bible History and Content
- c. *Grades 9-10* — Two courses in Church History
- d. *Grades 11-12* — Two courses in "Kingdom Perspectives"

#### 4. CURRICULUM

##### a. *Bible Stories* (grades 1-4)

1) *Aim*: To provide a basic knowledge of Bible stories and characters so indispensable for spiritual development in the younger child, to assure an adequate background for regular catechetical studies, which begin at grade 3 according to the proposed curriculum above, and thus to compensate in some small part for the lack of a Christian School.

2) *Description*: These courses are to be conducted by the parents in the home. Not only can the task be done properly in this way without further burdening the minister, but this will also be a means of strengthening the spiritual resources of the home, which is especially important when the child does not attend a Christian School. The lessons should be very simple, based on the reading of Bible stories from such well-established books as those by Marian Schoolland and Catherine Vos. A manual would be furnished to aid the parents. Lessons should be very brief, indicating the particular story to be read and providing questions, memory work, and prayers in connection with it. This manual would follow closely the *Course of Study* published by the National Union of Christian Schools.

##### b. *Bible History and Content* (Grades 5-8)

1) *Aim*: The objective will be to inculcate Bible knowledge beyond mere familiarity with Bible stories, by means of an emphasis upon the interrelation of the events of these stories with one another, i.e. *an expanding emphasis on the Bible as history*; and furthermore, to provide a *systematic understanding* of Bible content suited to the particular age level.

2) *Description*: The emphasis will be on Bible knowledge throughout these four years. With a view to Bible History, attention will be given to such things as time spans (e.g. number of centuries from Abraham to Moses and from David to Daniel), temporal relationships

(e.g. between the preparation in Egyptian bondage and the appearance of the nation in the wilderness), causal relationships (e.g. faithlessness and apostasy brings the cycle of servitude, repentance and deliverance in the hero stories of the Judges), etc. Bible Content will give attention to the general contents or thrust of certain important and representative books (e.g. certain historical, poetical and prophetic books); and, also related to Bible History, such matters as Bible geography, place relations, civil and ceremonial customs, etc. (using maps, slides, strip films, and possibly various projects). In all of these courses attention would naturally be given to the doctrinal and ethical implications for the child, and there would be a continuous "stock-piling" of memory work, i.e. both selected verses and longer passages. The Bible History and Content series will in each grade cycle be appropriate to the age level of the child, and will be varied from year to year. This four-year plan will follow closely the course of study used in our Christian Schools (see NUCS, *Course of Study* for details) and will be correlated insofar as possible with the regular curriculum for the catechism class.

c. *Church History* (Grades 9-10)

1) *Aim*: To provide a formal study of *Church History*, which is considered most important for the proper training of the child, and which he will ordinarily not receive if he does not attend the Christian School.

2) *Description*: These courses should not consist in abstracted events and the doctrines or moralisms which can be related to them, but rather the actual historical unfolding of the life and times of the Church. There should be some preliminary perspective given on the origins of the Church in both the pre-theocratic and theocratic times and in the book of Acts. Historical relationships, time spans, etc. will be e.g. to teach the doctrine of the Trinity to this age group in terms of Arius' attempt to destroy it, rather than merely to teach it in abstract they influenced and were influenced by their times. Also most useful, particularly for integration with the doctrine courses of regular catechism, would be the "history of doctrine" approach. It is very helpful, accented. In part this study could be organized around great men, as propositional form. The same is true of Augustine vs. Pelagius on the doctrine of sin, Chalcedon on the natures and person of Christ, Roman Catholic semi-pelagianism on purgatory and penance, the Reformation on justification by faith, etc. It should not be overlooked that the National Union of Christian Schools has materials well-suited for this purpose.

d. "*Kingdom Perspectives*" (Grades 11-12)

1) *Aim*: To compensate in a very small way for the lack of what is normally accomplished by the Christian School as it teaches every

subject with distinctively Christian presupposition, interpretation and aim; that is, *to convey something of the significance of Calvinism as a world and life view*. The aim of this course will differ from Course No. 12 in the regular curriculum ("The Christian Life" — see above) as theory differs from practice, as a system differs from its expression, and as a philosophy of life differs from the ethics that it implies.

2) *Description*: This course must point to the fact that the Reformed expression of Christianity is as broad and as deep as all of human life itself; that Calvinism is more than a confessional or doctrinal standpoint; or better, that because it is confessionally full-orbed, e.g., goes beyond the five points of Calvinism and embraces the whole of the Covenant or Kingdom life of the Christian. The emphasis in this course will then be upon the Kingdom as embracing within itself the Church as institute, but also such other spheres as the Home, School, State, and Society. The Kingdom will be understood to demand control of such areas of human endeavor as the arts, science, education, government, business and industry. Hence, then, every vocation is for the Christian sacred, because under Christ all of life is sacred. Asceticism, therefore, in act or attitude, like secularism, is foreign to Calvinism because it is unchristian. All of this must be taught in terms of a Biblical understanding of the Kingship of Christ. The child thus comes to see that witnessing to this Christ, the Christ of cosmic redemption, is the calling of the Christian. Furthermore, the Kingship of Christ permits neither self-rule nor legalism, but only the liberty of bondage to Christ. This means self-denial, losing oneself for Christ's sake in order through mature Kingdom citizenship and obedience to find oneself in Christ. In order to get a vision of this Kingdom dimension of the Christian faith, and its demands upon the Christian, the student must on his own level, be introduced to the inner meaning of such classic expressions as *Pro Rege, The Glory of God, The Sovereignty of God, World and Life View, and Saved To Serve*; and be brought to say as was said recently in one of our journals, "Nothing matters but the Kingdom, but because of the Kingdom everything matters!"

5. COMMENT: Manuals must be prepared for each of these courses, in order to aid both the teacher and the catechumen. Materials already prepared by the National Union of Christian Schools can of course be utilized. Because of the additional time required for giving this *auxiliary* instruction (in addition to the regular catechetical curriculum) it may be necessary to use the assistance of elders or other qualified laymen. In any case, these four areas *must be covered* so that everything possible is done to offset the lack of a Christian School, and so that the teaching of the regular catechism curriculum will be of maximum effectiveness.



## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That Synod approve the proposed auxiliary curriculum for catechesis where there is no Christian School. *Grounds:*

1) This proposed curriculum executes the decisions of the Synods of 1947 ("ways and means of integrating our various educational agencies," *Acts*, p. 57) and of 1951 (quoted above under B—1 "MANDATE").

2) This proposed curriculum adapts the Christian School curriculum to the needs of those who cannot attend a Christian School, and takes into full account the course of study as outlined by the National Union of Christian Schools.

b. That Synod empower the Committee on Education to provide for and supervise the preparation of a set of catechism textbooks which will embody the foregoing curriculum, and which will be intended for uniform use throughout the Churches of our denomination.

*Grounds:*

1) This is in compliance with the decision of the Synod of 1947 regarding publication of uniform lessons and study manuals, (*Acts*, p. 57, 3b).

2) There is a dire need for such materials in view of the still-frequent lack of the Christian School among our Churches.

3) There are no textbooks presently available to carry out the proposed curriculum.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS (covering both curricula): That Synod enable the Committee on Education to proceed immediately with the preparation of textbooks, for both the curriculum for normal catechesis and the curriculum for catechesis where there is no Christian School, by means of the following steps:

a. Setting aside the sum of \$5,000 for the coming year (1952-'53), to be used by the Committee on Education in beginning the work of having these textbooks prepared;

b. Requesting the Committee on Education to present to the Synod of 1953 a detailed budget of the outlay of funds needed to set up the entire proposed curriculum; and

c. Instructing the Committee on Education to submit samples of its work to the Synod of 1953

*Ground:* Action on this problem is long overdue. Our children use textbooks in school which are pedagogically up-to-date. Their catechism textbooks should similarly reflect the best pedagogical methods. Other denominations have embarked on programs of this sort years ago. Voices are being persistently raised within our denomination for better catechism materials. This program must be started at once!

## II. SUNDAY SCHOOL

A. **MANDATE:** The Synod of 1952 decided "That both the *Comrade-Key-Instructor* series and the *Good News* series as such be discontinued, and one new series be designed to combine both the evangelistic and covenantal functions of the Sunday School". It further decided "That the Committee on Education be charged to give further consideration to its proposal to have graded lessons", and "when dealing with Sunday School matters to call in as advisers the Editor of the Sunday School papers, and also some member of the Publication Committee". (*Acts*, 1952, pp. 48-49)

Through appropriate consultation full agreement has been reached between the Publication Committee and the Committee on Education.

B. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee on Education and the Publication Committee make the following recommendations jointly:

1. That Synod authorize a semi-graded system of lessons, along the lines of the suggestion of the Synod of 1952, that is, graded lessons in which unity can be retained by having the same general subject but with different Scripture passages whenever necessary; and further that at least three different pupil papers with suitable teacher's guide be published to cover the various departments. (*Acts*, 1952, p. 49).

### *Grounds:*

a. This will accomplish the purpose of graded lessons in avoiding either undue repetition of simple stories for the older classes or unduly difficult lessons for the younger classes.

b. This will permit the continuation of Sunday School teachers' meetings as they are ordinarily conducted among us.

c. This will be no more costly than the present system of two different lesson series for covenantal and mission Sunday Schools respectively, with two distinct pupil papers for each.

2. That Synod create a new standing committee of five members, to be known as the Sunday School Committee, including in its membership, among others, a qualified educator, a member of the Publication Committee, and a member of the Committee on Education. The task of this Committee will be:

a. To supervise the preparation of all denominational Sunday School materials, including the appointment of all writers except the editor-in-chief, who is to be synodically elected.

b. To create the new single series of Sunday School materials ordered by the Synod of 1952, including the proposed semi-graded lessons specified above, and pedagogical aids as suggested in the report of the Committee on Education last year, and to inaugurate this new series in January, 1954.

c. To carry out "lesson planning" as one of its functions, thus terminating the work of both the "Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee" and the "Mission Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee". It should be understood that the new Sunday School Committee will thus have authority to revise the schedule of lessons already adopted by Synod, at its discretion, for the period after January 1, 1954.

d. To work in consultation with the Publication Committee in respect to publication and distribution of materials, and with the Committee on Education in respect to the function of the Sunday School as related to other educational agencies.

*Grounds:*

a. Such a special committee is needed to develop properly the Sunday School materials already authorized, and to provide the denominational leadership which a successful Sunday School system requires.

b. The establishment of such a committee will eliminate the need for a special lesson planning committee.

3. That Synod retain the present editor-in-chief, the Reverend John Schaal, for at least one year.

*Ground:* In this time of transition it is very important that the work be conducted by an editor who has had maximum experience.

4. That Synod grant the request of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for cooperation in the publication of our Sunday School materials. (*Acts*, 1951, pp. 51-52) by inviting the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to have two of its representatives meet with the Sunday School Committee (proposed above under "2") in a consultative capacity.

*Grounds:*

a. The theological outlook of the two denominations concerned is the same. We can cooperate in bearing our Reformed witness.

b. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church has already used our Sunday School materials for some years by adding its own supplementary pedagogical aids for evangelistic purposes. Through consultation the experience of our Orthodox Presbyterian brethren with the evangelistic Sunday School can be used for the common good and the new Sunday School materials can be so designed that they will properly serve the needs of both.

c. By such cooperation the financial resources of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for Sunday School materials can be used to supplement our own.

### III. YOUTH BIBLE CONFERENCES

In compliance with the instructions given to your Committee by Synod (*Acts*, 1951, p. 57), we submit the following informational re-

port based on the questionnaire referred to on p. 431 of the *Acts*, 1952. Some twenty-five replies, representing nearly every section of the Church, where Bible Conferences of various kinds have been held during recent years, were received.

Having studied and evaluated the replies to these questionnaires, the Committee feels that the benefits to be derived from such conferences can be divided into two main classes. Primarily the emphasis at the conferences is on Bible Study, bearing in mind that in addition to acquiring a knowledge of Bible facts, our youth should receive a lasting inspiration to continue studying God's Word. Opportunity is given to discuss life problems which aids in bringing about a greater degree of spiritual maturity on the part of our youth.

In the second place, youth conferences afford an opportunity for a period of pleasant vacation among Christian companions, thus developing a Christian fellowship which may grow into a more meaningful thing in their lives. This end can be realized through guided recreation such as athletics and music.

The most serious danger apparent at this time is the possibility of a Fundamentalist approach to Christian living. Other minor issues arise in regard to the age of conferees, time for conference, leaders, sponsorship, etc.

The committee feels that at present it is not in a position to advise Synod as to the place of Youth Conferences in our educational structure. After the exact curriculum of the catechism classes has been adopted by Synod, your Committee will be better able to clarify the position of our various youth activities and to suggest material which they may profitably study.

#### IV. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

1. Two members of the Committee must retire this year, according to the six year tenure rule. They are Rev. N. J. Monsma and Mr. Sidney Van Til. The Committee is prepared to present a nomination to Synod for filling these two vacancies.

2. Three members of the Committee have now completed a first term of three years and are eligible for reappointment. They are Mr. Sidney Bangma, and Revs. N. H. Beversluis and A. Hoekema. Their reappointment to a second three year term is hereby recommended.

Your Committee wishes to be represented at Synod by its secretary, and requests that he be given opportunity to elucidate and defend this report.

May God graciously guide you in all your deliberations, including those pertaining to the communication of His truth to children and

young people, both within and without the Church. We are grateful for the opportunity to labor with you for the coming of God's Kingdom to rising generations.

Respectfully submitted,

NICHOLAS J. MONSMA, *Chairman*

HAROLD DEKKER, *Secretary*

SIDNEY BANGMA

NICHOLAS H. BEVERSLUIS

ANTHONY A. HOEKEMA

RHINE C. PETTINGA

WILLIAM VANDER HAAK

SIDNEY VAN TIL

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 34**  
(Art. 84)

**CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

The Synod of 1952 altered the original mandate of this Committee. As first constituted, it was charged to serve as one of the voluntary agencies, representing our Christian Reformed Church, for the procurement of its proportionate share of Displaced Persons to be admitted into the United States under Special Act of Congress.

Under the provisions of this Act the Committee with the co-operative aid of our churches obtained sponsors for a number of Hungarian families and single persons.

When the Law expired, and the program operating under it was terminated, your Committee considered also its task, and its mandate, finished.

However, by providential conjunction of timely, new legislation, which was then in prospect, we did not recommend that this special Committee for Calvinist Resettlement be discontinued. In April of 1952 the President proposed a special Extra-Quota Immigration Act for enactment into law by the 82nd Congress. This would provide for an additional 7,500 non-quota (extra) immigrants from The Netherlands for three consecutive years—22,500 in all. The Bill stipulated that for obtaining visas these immigrants would require sponsorship with assurances of a place to live and employment.

In the expectation that this new measure to help meet the basic condition of overpopulation in Holland would be passed in Congress, the Committee was continued.

It was given a new mandate to serve as a voluntary agency representing the Christian Reformed Church in the procurement of its proportionate share of the extra-quota Holland immigrants by providing sponsorship with the assistance of our churches.

At the same time Synod enlarged the Committee membership with two additional deacons. According to the appointment as authorized by Synod the membership of the Committee was constituted as follows:

- Rev. C. Huissen — Chairman
- Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft — Secretary
- Mr. Gerald Lyzenga — Treasurer (West Leonard Church)
- Mr. John Vander Meer (Dennis Ave. Church)
- Mr. Edward Mersman (Nelard Ave. Church)
- Mr. John Brondsema (Alpine Ave. Church)
- Mr. Arthur Kuizema (Oakdale Park Church)
- Mr. Wilbur Posthumus (Grandville Ave. Church)

Miss Agnes Flonk was retained as Assistant Secretary.

Later it was developed that Chairman Rev. Huissen accepted a call from Northwest Iowa and consequently was prevented from meeting with the Committee.

In the meantime the new administration came into office; the 83rd Congress convened; the revised Immigration and Nationality Act was duly enacted into law over the presidential veto.

But there was delay in re-introducing the extra-non-quota special immigration bill in the new Congress. This effectually hindered our Committee from activating its program of sponsor procurement.

### THE GREAT FLOOD

Then swiftly, with a sudden stroke of an Act of God, the disastrous, storm-driven, tidal flood poured over and through the dikes into the Lowlands.

Spontaneously and immediately a stream of relief and help began to flow also from our country to the stricken lands.

As it became evident that many thousands were left homeless, their dwellings swept away; their live-stock victims of the raging torrents; their fields and pastures submerged under salt water, three separate emergency bills were introduced in the U. S. Congress to allow from 25,000 to 50,000 of the flood evacuees in Holland to immigrate to the United States, without regard to the normal quota, but under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This would help to provide permanent relief, rather than only temporary, to a part of those who have suffered most directly and most severely from the flood catastrophe. It was hoped and expected that those bills, perhaps unified with amendments, would soon be reported out of Committee and quickly passed. They were presented in the form of Resolutions of Relief and were in harmony with the spirit and sentiments of the resolutions of sympathy which were passed in both houses expressing the deep and genuine sympathy of our nation for the stricken peoples and which were substantiated by the liberal contributions to Relief and Rehabilitation Funds. In order to be ready for action as soon as Congress had acted, our Committee addressed a letter to our Consistories and to the Classes informing and alerting them with respect to the inauguration of a sponsorship procurement program and enlisting their cooperation in its execution.

The Committee also addressed communications to the Christelijk Emigratie Centrale; the Deputaten voor de Emigratie van de Algemene Synode der Gereformeerde Kerken, and to the Algemene Kerkelijke Bureau der Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands. The Committee has requested them to cooperate in supplying our churches, through the Committee-channel with a roster of eligible immigrants of our common faith, qualified to receive sponsorship under the special Act.

This list would form the basic source from which the Committee would then match the applications from the Netherlands with the assurances given in the United States throughout our churches.

We have as yet not worked out the details of this cooperative program. These must be determined in the light of the specific regulations and stipulations of the bill when it is passed.

Hence your Committee is not ready to report further on the matter at this time, the beginning of March.

In a supplementary report when Synod meets, we hope to be able to present this program of Christian mercy and service, not as "in spe," but "in working" under the special guidance and blessing of God.

We also reserve the Committee's recommendations to Synod until then, D. V.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE COMMITTEE

REV. C. HUISSEN, *Chairman*

REV. J. M. VAN DE KIEFT, *Secretary*

GERALD LYZENGA, *Treasurer*

JOHN VANDER MEER

EDWARD MERSMAN

JOHN BRONDSEMA

ARTHUR KUIZEMA

WILBUR POSTHUMUS



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 34-A**  
(Art. 84)

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**CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE**

**ESTEEMED BRETHERN:**

Our hope that by the time Synod met Congress would have taken action on at least one of the emergency Immigration Relief Bills has as yet not been realized.

In THE BANNER of May 1, pg. 557, we explained the main provisions of the Bill introduced in Congress on date of March 17, 1953 by Miss Ruth Thompson, Michigan Representative. This Bill is known as H.R. 4044, "A Bill to provide emergency relief for certain nationals of the Netherlands, and for other purposes." It was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, of which Miss Thompson is herself a member.

The hearing on the Bill by the Judiciary Committee was expected shortly. But it was deferred and to date no action was taken. Upon inquiry, we learned from Miss Thompson that action was delayed "for a week or ten days" (now already over three weeks).

The occasion for the delay was President Eisenhower's request to Congress that 120,000 additional immigrants of various nationals, chiefly refugees, be allowed to enter the United States this year, and again the next year.

With this proposal of the President in the picture, the matter of Netherlands Emergency Immigration Relief may become part of a more inclusive bill with consequent more extended debate and retarded action.

Hence your Committee is at this time unable to present a definite program of action for approval by Synod. Neither can we now submit specific *recommendations* beyond the following:

- 1) We recommend that the present committee as constituted be continued another year and that another ministerial member be appointed as Chairman in the place of the Rev. Christian Huissen, now serving in Rock Valley, Iowa.
- 2) That the Committee be authorized to activate the program of sponsor-procurement, if and when the pending Bill(s) is (are) enacted into law, in accordance with the provisions and regulations of the law.

Respectively submitted,  
Calvinistic Resettlement Service Committee  
JOHN M. VANDE KIEFT, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 35**  
(Art. 135)

**MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON PLANNING**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN :**

Herewith our recommended schedule of lessons for our Mission Sunday Schools for the year 1954. This contains the three-year cycle or lessons planned to take the students through Old and New Testaments. The cycle is completed with this series.

**LESSON SCHEDULE FOR 1954**

Jan. 3	The Wise Men's Visit to the Savior.....	Mathew 2
Jan. 10	The Boy Jesus in the Temple.....	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 17	Satan Tempts Jesus.....	Luke 4:1-5; Mark 1:12, 13
Jan. 24	Jesus' First Disciples.....	Mathew 9:9; Mark 4:13-19; John 1:35-51
Jan. 31	Jesus At the Wedding.....	John 2:1-11
Feb. 7	Jesus and Nicodemus .....	John 3:1-21
Feb. 14	Herod and John the Baptist.....	Luke 3:1-3, 19-20; Mathew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29
Feb. 21	Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son.....	John 4:39-54
Feb. 28	A Wonderful Catch of Fish.....	Luke 5:1-17
Mar. 7	A Busy Sabbath in Capernaum.....	Mark 1:21-35
Mar. 14	Jesus and the Paralytic.....	Mark 2:1-12; Mathew 9:8; Luke 5:26
Mar. 21	Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter.....	Mark 5:21-43
Mar. 28	Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda.....	John 5:1-18
April 4	Jesus' Suffering in the Garden.....	Matthew 26:36-56; John 18:1-14
April 11	Jesus Crucified .....	Matthew 27:19-44
April 18	The Resurrection of Jesus.....	Matthew 27:57-28:15
April 25	Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene.....	John 20:1-18
May 2	Jesus Teaches Two Disciples.....	Luke 24:13-35
May 9	Jesus Appears to His Disciples and Thomas.....	John 20:19-31
May 16	Peter Restored .....	John 21
May 23	Jesus Goes to Heaven.....	Mark 16:14-20; Acts 1:1-14
May 30	Three Kinds of Hearers.....	Luke 8:4-21
June 6	Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit.....	Acts 2:1-21
June 13	Jesus Feeds the Hungry.....	Mark 6:30-44
June 20	Jesus Walks on the Sea.....	Mark 6:45-56; Matthew 14:28-36
June 27	Jesus in Glory on the Mount.....	Luke 9:28-45
July 4	A Lesson in Forgiveness .....	Matthew 18:15-35
July 11	Jesus and the Man Born Blind.....	John 9
July 18	The Loving Neighbor.....	Luke 10:23-37
July 25	Jesus and His Friends at Bethany.....	Luke 10:38-42; John 11:55-12:8
Aug. 1	The Rich Fool .....	Luke 12:13-34
Aug. 8	How the House was Filled with Guests.....	Luke 14:7-24

Aug. 15	The Forgiving Father.....	Luke 15:11-32
Aug. 22	The Rich Man and Lazarus .....	Luke 16:19-31
Aug. 29	Jesus Raises Lazarus .....	John 11:1-46
Sept. 5	Lessons on Prayer .....	Luke 18:1-14
Sept. 12	Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler.....	Luke 18:15-34
Sept. 19	The Little Man who Wanted to See Jesus.....	Luke 19:1-28
Sept. 26	The Lame Man Healed .....	Acts 3:1-26
Oct. 3	Lying Fearfully Punished! .....	Acts 5:1-16
Oct. 10	The Apostles Punished for Doing Good.....	Acts 5:17-42
Oct. 17	The Stoning of Stephen .....	Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:51-60
Oct. 24	Paul's Conversion .....	Acts 9:1-31
Oct. 31	Peter and Cornelius .....	Acts 10
Nov. 7	Peter Freed from Prison.....	Acts 12:1-23
Nov. 14	Paul Stoned at Lystra .....	Acts 14
Nov. 21	A Lesson in Thankfulness .....	Luke 17:5-19
Nov. 28	Paul Preaches at Philippi .....	Acts 16
Dec. 5	Burning Bad Books .....	Acts 19
Dec. 12	Gabriel's Message to Zachariah.....	Luke 1:1-25
Dec. 19	Gabriel's Message to Mary and Joseph.....	Luke 1:26-56
Dec. 26	The Birth of Jesus.....	Luke 2:1-40

Note: In cases where the chapter is cited without specifying certain verses, it is suggested that the entire chapter be used as a basis for the lesson.

In the event that it is agreeable to Synod and its rules, your committee hereby indicates that it is willing to continue to serve in this capacity.

HENRY VERDUIN, *President*

MISS KATIE GUNNINK

ANDREW VANDER VEER

WILLIAM VAN REES

JOHN H. PIERSMA, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 36**  
(Arts. 57, 96)

**THE SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE**

TO THE SYNOD OF 1953:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

At the close of the eighth year of its existence, your Committee is pleased to present the following report for the year March 15, 1952 to March 15, 1953.

Regular monthly meetings were held during this period, except for the months of July and August.

**SECTION I — PERSONNEL**

Committee members who served during this year are Prof. L. Berkhof, Rev. Wm. Vander Hoven, Rev. G. VandeRiet, Rev. L. Veltkamp, Rev. D. H. Walters, Mr. G. Dykman, Mr. P. B. Peterson and Mr. E. Postma.

Committee officers were: L. Berkhof, President; D. H. Walters, Vice-President; E. Postma, Secretary; G. Dykman, Treasurer.

Sub-committees which carried out the various phases of the task of producing and distributing sound and attractive tracts were:

**Editing** — Wm. Vander Hoven, L. Veltkamp, D. H. Walters

**Writing assignment** — L. Berkhof, D. H. Walters

**Titles** — E. Postma, G. Vande Riet

**Art work** — P. B. Peterson

**Finance** — G. Dykman, E. Postma

**SECTION II — SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES**

(a) Production.

Although only a few new tracts were actually put into print this year, your committee has several manuscripts on hand for consideration, and twenty-five new titles were assigned to writers. Several of these have already indicated their willingness to write a tract.

In order to encourage the writing of tracts, we are sponsoring a tract writing contest, which we hope will serve as a reminder to our people that they use whatever ability they have to write, in the service of the Lord.

We are also putting forth efforts to produce tracts suitable for distribution among children.

It is encouraging that the mails frequently bring letters of commendation for the quality of our tracts.

The Drummond Tract Depot of Stirling, Scotland, asked for permission to reprint "Whose Day?", written by Rev. J. Verbrugge.

A Lt. Colonel in the 5th Marine Corps took the trouble to correspond with us to express his appreciation for the tract entitled "One Church — Why Many Denominations?", written by Rev. J. Vander Ploeg.

There is much available material which can readily be thrown together to make a tract, but your Committee has sincerely endeavored to publish and distribute the best we can obtain. While we are eager to increase the number of tracts we can offer for sale, our first concern is quality.

(b) Distribution.

During the first ten months of this year our volume distribution was about the same as last year. According to reports from the Banner Office, the last two months have shown a considerable increase. This is due, we believe, to the extensive advertising campaign which we launched among the members of our own denomination.

Your Committee deems it advisable to try to alert our own people to the opportunity for service in the way of tract distribution. Consequently a letter, containing a few sample tracts, a little note of recommendation signed by Prof. Berkhof, a price list and order blank plus a self-addressed envelope was mailed to every family in our denomination.

At the same time we offered free, to each consistory and Mission station of the Christian Reformed Church, a twelve pocket tract rack, plus an introductory packet of one hundred and twenty assorted tracts. Over three hundred consistories and Chapels availed themselves of this opportunity to increase interest in tract distribution. Furthermore, every minister and full time mission worker of our Church has the privilege of ordering free of charge, ten dollars worth of tracts each year.

The Banner House again served as distribution center, also for this entire advertising program. Mr. J. Buiten and his staff are to be highly commended for the friendly and excellent co-operation given us in this matter.

### SECTION III — RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Your Committee recommends that Synod continue to have a Synodical Tract Committee.

(b) Your Committee recommends that Synod appoint the personnel of the Synodical Tract Committee, bearing in mind that Prof. L. Berkhof and Mr. P. B. Peterson are retiring from the Committee this year in keeping with the decision of the Synod of 1952, namely, that members of denominational committees cannot be appointed for more than two three-year terms in succession.

In order to bring the Tract Committee in line with this Synodical decision, your Committee would like to suggest six names for possible appointees, so that Synod may elect three men.

Our Committee will then be composed of nine men (instead of eight, as it is now) three men to be elected each year. This gives a two-thirds continuity of the Committee.

The following are the suggested names:

Mr. Evert Broene, Mr. Jacob De Jager. *These men are printers.*

Mr. R. Weidenaar, Mr. C. De Bruin. *These men are artists.*

Rev. R. O. De Groot, Rev. N. Veltman.

(c) Your Committee recommends that Synod again recommend the Synodical Tract Committee to the churches for one or more offerings.

Respectfully submitted,

L. BERKHOF, *Pres.*  
G. DYKMAN  
P. B. PETERSON  
WM. VANDER HOVEN  
G. VANDE RIET  
L. VELTKAMP  
D. H. WALTERS  
E. POSTMA, *Sec.*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 37**  
(Art. 84)

**FORMULIER VOOR DE SLUITING VAN HET HUWELIJK  
IN DE EREDIENST**

(See Art. 120 and Supplement No. 12 of Acts of 1952)

Indien de sluiting van het huwelijk plaats heeft in een eredienst, zal de Zondag tevoren het volgende worden bekend gemaakt:

“NN en N.N. hebben hun begeerte te kennen gegeven om in het huwelijk te treden in de kerk alhier, op.....Indien geen wettige bezwaren hiertegen worden ingebracht, zal hun huwelijk op die datum worden voltrokken.”

Bij de aanvang van de plechtigheid spreke de leraar aldus:

-- Geliefden in den Here, we zijn hier vergaderd in de tegenwoordigheid Gods om N.N. en N.N. in het huwelijk te verbinden. Aangezien hiertegen geen wettige bezwaren zijn ingebracht, zo laat ons nu met gepaste eerbied stilstaan bij de instelling en het doel van het huwelijk, alsmede bij de wederzijdse verplichtingen in deze staat.

De heilige band des huwelijks is door God reeds ingesteld bij de schepping. God schiep de mens naar Zijn beeld, begiftigde hem met vele zegeningen en gaf hem heerschaappij over alle dingen. Ook zei de Here God: “Het is niet goed, dat de mens alleen zij; Ik zal hem een hulp maken, die bij hem past.” Daarna formeerde Hij een vrouw uit het vlees en bloed van de man en bracht haar tot hem. “Daarom zal een man zijn vader en moeder verlaten en zijn vrouw aanhangen, en die twee zullen tot één vlees zijn.”

Onze Here Jezus heeft het huwelijk geeerd door Zijn gezegende tegenwoordigheid tijdens de bruiloft te Kana, en heeft het erkend als een goddelijke instelling, een eerbare staat en een duurzame band, toen Hij verklaarde: “Wat God samengevoegd heeft, scheidt de mens niet.” De Apostel Paulus wijst op het verheven karakter van het huwelijk, wanneer hij het noemt een symbool van de mystieke unie, die Christus en de Kerk, Zijn verlost Bruid, samenbindt, en Hij beveelt het aan als een staat, eerbaar onder allen.

Het doel van het huwelijk is de voortplanting van het menselijk geslacht de bevordering van de belangen van het Koninkrijk Gods, en de verrijking van het leven der echtgenoten. Daartoe is nodig een liefdevolle toewijding tot elkander en een besef van gemeenschappelijke verantwoordelijkheid ten aanzien van de opvoeding van de kinderen, die het Gode gelieven moge hun te geven, als een erfenis van Hem en als deelgenoten aan Zijn Verbond.

Wat betreft de wederzijdse verplichtigen in het huiselijk leven, heeft de Here verordend, dat de man het hoofd der vrouw zal zijn, gelijk Christus het Hoofd der Kerk is. Het is de roeping van de man, zijn vrouw te beschermen en te verzorgen in liefde. Die liefde, betoond in de geest van Christus en naar Zijn voorbeeld zal rijkelijk bijdragen tot beider geluk. Voorts heeft de Here verordend, dat de vrouw onderdanig zal zijn aan haar man in alle dingen die naar het Woord van God zijn, haar man eerbiedigende evenals de gemeente Christus eerbied toedraagt. Langs deze weg ontvangt beider vrijheid tegenover elkaar haar diepste zin door wederzijdse gehoorzaamheid aan de Wet van God. Een gezin, aldus gesticht in de Naam des Heren, en ingericht naar Zijn ordinantien, legt het fundament van een Christelijke samenleving en biedt tevens een voorsmaak van de zaligheid in het eeuwig Vaderhuis.

Het huwelijk is dus een goddelijke instelling, die een bron van levensgeluk beoogt te zijn voor de echtgenoten. Het is een instelling, die van de grootste betekenis moet worden geacht voor het menselijk geslacht, en een beeld van de innige eenheid tussen Christus en Zijn gemeente. Daarom mogen wij als Christenen dan ook met vol vertrouwen opzien tot God om de nodige genade te verkrijgen in het nakomen van onze wederzijdse verplichtingen, en tevens leiding en hulp temidden van moeilijkheden en beproevingen, die in het menselijk leven voorkomen.

En nu, N.N. en N.N., gehoord hebbende wat het Woord Gods ons leert aangaande het huwelijk, stemt gij daarmee in, en begeert gij in de echt verbonden te worden zoals God, naar Zijn Woord, heeft ingesteld?

Ja (door bruidegom en bruid na elkaar uit te spreken).

(Desgewenst vraagt nu de Dienaar des Woords: "Wie schenkt de bruidegom zijn bruid?", waarop de vader of voogd van de bruid antwoordt: "Ik.") (De Dienaar verzoekt nu het bruidspaar elkander de rechterhand te geven.)

De Here, onze God, bevestig de wens en het voornemen uwer harten en uw begin zij in de Naam des Heren, Die Hemel en aarde gemaakt heeft.

Tot de bruidegom:

N.N., Betuigt gij plechtig, dat gij aanvaardt en erkent als uw wettige vrouw N.N., hier tegenwoordig, en belooft gij, met de genadige hulp van God, haar lief te hebben, haar te eren, haar te verzorgen, heilig met haar te leven in de band des huwelijks naar de ordinantie Gods, en haar nimmer te verlaten, zolang God uw beider leven spaart?

De Bruidegom antwoordt: Ja

Tot de bruid:

N.N., betuigt gij plechtig, dat gij aanvaardt en erkent als uw wettige man N.N., hier tegenwoordig, en belooft gij, met de genadige hulp van God, hem lief te hebben, hem te eren, hem te gehoorzamen in alle dingen,



die recht en billijk zijn, heilig met hem te leven in de band des huwelijks, naar de ordinantie Gods, en hem nimmer te verlaten, zolang God uw beider leven spaart?

De bruid antwoordt: "Ja."

(Desgewenst heeft de schenking van de bruiloftsring thans plaats. Men geve de ring van de bruid aan de Dienaar des Woords. Deze vraagt nu aan de bruidegom: N.N., schenkt gij deze ring als een teken van uw onkrenkbare trouw en onwankelbare liefde?)

De bruidegom antwoordt: Ja. Hij ontvangt daarop de ring en doet die aan de vierde vinger van de linkerhand van de bruid.

Zich richtende tot de bruid vraagt de Dienaar des Woords daarop: N.N., ontvangt gij deze ring als een teken van uw onkrenkbare trouw en onwankelbare liefde?

De bruid antwoordt: Ja.)

(Indien twee ringen worden gebruikt, zal in beide gevallen slechts de eerste vraag worden gesteld. Na het beantwoorden daarvan door de bruid doet zij de ring van de bruidegom aan de vierde vinger van zijn linkerhand.)

Thans spreekt de Dienaar des Woords als volgt: Overeenkomstig de wetten des lands en de ordinantie van de Kerk van Christus verklaar ik U, N.N. en N.N., tot man en vrouw in de Naam des Vaders en des Zoons en des Heiligen Geestes. Wat dan God samengevoegd heeft, scheid de mens niet. Voortaan zult gij uw levensweg samen betreden. De God nu aller genade, Die in Zijn gunst U heeft geroepen tot deze heilige huwelijksstaat, binde U samen in ware liefde en trouw en geve U Zijn zegen.

(De gemeente wordt nu verzocht, Ps. 134:2 te zingen, en tijdens dit zingen knielen bruidegom en bruid.)

Daarna gaat de Dienaar des Woords voor in gebed:

Barmhartige en genadige God, uit Wien het ganse geslacht in de hemelen en op aarde genoemd wordt, wij smeken U, zet het zegel Uwer hoge goedkeuring op het huwelijk, dat deze broeder en zuster deze dag hebben aangegaan. Schenk hun Uw vaderlijke zegen, en verleen hun Uw genade en Uw Heilige Geest, opdat zij getrouw mogen zijn door reine en trouwe liefde aan het verbond dat heden door hen gesloten werd. Richt hun voeten op het pad der gerechtigheid en des vredes, opdat zij een van hart en zin, U in liefde mogen dienen alle de dagen huns levens, en tezamen verrijkt mogen worden met de blijken van Uw onveranderlijke gunst in Jezus Christus, onzen Heer. Wil onder alle omstandigheden Uw vriendelijk aangezicht over hun doen lichten, opdat zij dankbaar mogen zijn in voorspoed en geduldig in tegenspoed.

Moge hun huwelijk vrucht dragen voor tijd en eeuwigheid beide. Verleen hun de wijsheid en kracht die ze nodig hebben om hun gezinsleven in te richten tot de eer van Uw Naam en de komst van Uw Koninkrijk. Geef hun het voorrecht dat zij vele jaren samen mogen leven, en doe hen in het uur des doods scheiden in de zalige hoop, dat zij voor eeuwig met alle heiligen mogen vieren de bruiloft van Christus en de Kerk Zijner liefde.

Hoor onze bede in de Naam van onzen Heer Jezus Christus, Die ons aldus heeft leren bidden: Onze Vader . . . enz . . . Amen.

(Het is aan te bevelen dat de plechtigheid besloten worde met een passend lied, zoals Psalm 134:3.)

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 38**

(Art. 84)

**UNITED YOUTH COMMITTEE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

Your United Youth Committee has met regularly during the course of the past year, and is continuing, according to its mandate, to "strive to effect a coordinated program in facing the problems of our youth." In this connection, the committee would call the attention of synod to the following items:

(1) We are very happy to report that some very tangible progress has been made towards the establishment of a truly United Youth Movement. The two existing Federations have appointed a joint committee in order to study the various factors involved in establishing a more united program. The thinking of this group has somewhat crystallized, and during January, 1953, this committee consisting of three representatives of the A.F.R.Y.W.S. and three of the Young Calvinist Federation, has published an eight page pamphlet entitled "The United Calvinistic Youth Movement." In this pamphlet, questions are raised and answered as to the desirability and necessity, the task and the organization of a United Young Calvinist Federation, as this proposed organization is tentatively named. These pamphlets have been widely distributed throughout the country, copies having been sent to all member societies of the existing federations, all the ministers and clerks of the various churches within the denomination. More copies of this pamphlet are available to those who are interested. The brochure is not offered as the final answer to all of the problems involved, but rather it is presented so that all of those interested may become better acquainted with the plan, and that through constructive criticism by all of those interested in youth, the goal may be realized, and an effective coordinated program for all of our youth may become a reality. The plan suggests that all five types of youth organizations, namely, Young Women's Societies, Young Men's Societies, Young People's Societies, Boys Clubs, and Girls Clubs, will be eligible for membership in the district leagues as well as in the national federation. This committee is also beginning work on drafting a constitution which will in turn be presented to the existing Federations for consideration. However this part of the work has just been started. In the report of the coming year more details concerning this will probably be ready to be reported.

(2) In the report of your Committee to the Synod of 1952, note was taken of the fact that the Boys Clubs leaders were forming a Federation. During the course of the past year, on October 30, 1952,

at Kalamazoo, the new Federation of Reformed Boys Clubs was organized. Leaders from the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Boys Club Leagues ratified the Constitution, and the first Board of the new Federation was elected. Its members include: Elton Piersma, President, Jacob Mejeur, Vice-President, Jay Timmer, Secretary, and Roy Badham, Treasurer, Roy Vander Vennen, Marvin Bieringa and Jack Knoll. The Board is busy at present developing a leaders' handbook and program material, as well as assisting local groups in establishing boys clubs and leagues. Members of the Federation met with the Synodical Committee recently, and the method of integrating this work on behalf of the boys with the other youth work that is being carried on was discussed.

(3) Your Committee also desires to call the attention of Synod to the fact that the Young Calvinist Federation is sending free of charge the "Young Calvinist" and "Spires" regularly to our servicemen and to hospitals. At present this includes some 3600 copies. Reports that are being sent in by servicemen are very favorable. In this work the Federation does not receive any assistance from the Board of Home Missions. In localities where there are service pastors in the area, or other pastors within reasonable distance, lists of the men in that area are regularly distributed to these men, and in places where no pastors can visit, a system of "Contact men" in 65 camps provides the young men directly with information about other Christian Reformed men in the same camp. In this way, many Young Calvinist Clubs are being organized throughout the country.

We are happy and thankful that the work for our youth is being carried forward. The work of the Federation appears to be carried on in a commendable way. Rev. C. Witt had planned to attend the Young Calvinist Convention last summer but at the last moment found it impossible to represent the Committee there, but Mrs. C. Bouma was able to represent the Committee at the A.F.R.Y.W.S. Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

MR. R. POSTMA, *Chairman*

MRS. C. BOUMA

MRS. C. JAARSMA

DR. C. DE GRAAF

REV. L. DYKSTRA, *Secy.*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 39**(Art. 8<sup>1</sup>)**THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

It is common knowledge among us that the purpose of the Lord's Day far outstrips all other purposes in importance. That most important purpose of this Day is that on it God calls us to pause from our regular work day activities in order that we may give all our attention to consider and meditate upon the reason for our existence. What are we here for? Whither are we bound? These are fundamental questions. The one great question is: How and why must we spend our whole being and all our time in the occupation of glorifying God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier?

If this question of our glorifying God is the supreme and all consuming question of our lives; and if the Sabbath Day, the Lord's Day, has of God been set aside for the purpose of our cherishing and cultivating that heavenly ideal, then we cannot but see that the Lord's Day does have the most important and most influential place of all the days of the week. It has this place because it is formative for all the days of the week; it is so very important because it is formative for the Church and the Kingdom of God both as it is here on earth and as it shall be in the world to come. The Sabbath here is formative for the eternal Sabbath. The Sabbath as Dr. Vos used to teach is eschatological in nature and directive. It is the day set aside especially for our sanctification, pointing us to heaven and the way to heaven.

To stimulate the use of the Lord's Day for this its God-glorifying, rightful, and Divinely given purpose THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE has been organized. It has continued to function in striving to keep the Day free from all hindrances, legal or otherwise, for its Scripturally prescribed uses. There are mighty forces in operation seeking to give the Day over to secular and Godless ends. We need to unite to fight for the preservation of the Day for its proper purposes of heavenly-mindedness and growing sanctification in the Church and in its members.

Dr. Harry L. Bowlby, the secretary, and his associates have again this past year sought to give assistance throughout the nation to fortify the Lord's Day for Lord's Day uses and to stop such activities on the Lord's Day which are inimical to the Day's proper function. The Rev. J. J. Hiemenga wields a large influence in this organization. During the year gone by he has, we are informed, done considerable appreciated work in Indiana and other mid-western states for this cause.

We regret that when the Annual Meeting of the Lord's Day Alliance was held on January 19, 1953, in New York City, your representative was on duty for the Executive Committee of Home Missions in Florida, and hence could not be present. The Rev. J. J. Hiemenga was present however.

In view of the worthy work of the Alliance, and in view of its good reputation in our midst for many years, and in view of the patent need of the continuance of this work, *we recommend to the Synod that it repeat what it did in former years, namely, grant its moral and financial support to the Lord's Day Alliance.*

Furthermore we bespeak for this organization and for all who seek to preserve and to promote the Biblically prescribed activities for the Lord's Day the prayers of all our people; pray that this day may be used for the purposes for which God instituted it, since under Him they are so powerfully formative for the Eternal Sabbath.

Respectfully submitted,

Lord's Day Alliance Representative  
OREN HOLTROP

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 40**  
(Art. 57)

**THE IMPROVEMENT AND REVISION  
OF THE PSALTER HYMNAL AND  
SYNODICALLY-APPROVED HYMN BOOK**

**ESTEEMED BRETHERN:**

The above committee was appointed by the Synod of 1951, and herewith makes a report and recommendations to your gathering. This report will contain the following:

- I. Materials
- II. Interpretation of the Mandate
- III. Report on Mandate, Part I (Principles)
- IV. Report on Mandate, Part II (Psalter-Hymnal)
- V. Report on Mandate, Part III (Hymn Book)
- VI. Statement of Suggested Plans
- VII. Recommendations
- VIII. Appendix

**I. MATERIALS**

Materials consist of the following:

- A. Overtures to the Synod of 1951
  1. Classis Chicago South Overture concerning Psalter Hymnal (Acts 1951, listed as Overture 8, page 452; cf. also pages 47 and 101).
  2. Classis Kalamazoo Overture concerning Youth Hymnal (Acts 1951, listed as Overture 29, page 459; cf. also pages 51 and 101).
- B. Interim Reports of Committee appointed to study these Overtures
  1. Acts 1952, Supplement 9 (page 259) and Supplement 9-A (pages 260-1).
  2. Acts 1952, Article 70, 1, page 16.

**II. INTERPRETATION OF THE MANDATE**

As stated in the progress report to the Synod of 1952, which report was approved by that body, your committee understands its Mandate to be three-fold:

- A. Statement of Principles of Good Music and Song Text for our Churches, which may serve as a guide for ministers, organists, and choirs.
- B. Application of these principles in revising the Psalter-Hymnal.
- C. Application of these principles in providing a Synodically-Approved Hymn Book.

The work of the committee was conducted along the lines suggested by this understanding of the Mandate, with progress on each part reported herewith.

### III. REPORT ON MANDATE, PART I

*Statement of Principles of Good Music and Song Text for our Churches:* There was much discussion on this vital matter at every meeting of the committee during the past two years (five meetings from October 1951 through December 1952). It was no easy task to enter new territory such as this, especially because no previous Synod has ever requested a statement of principles or given guidance in this field. To state such principles is difficult, too, because these statements must involve the text (both as to content and to form) and the music (not only in its relationship to a given text, but also with reference to its appropriateness as music per se for the worship of God).

After prolonged discussion and revision, your committee is of the opinion that the many aspects of the problem can be summarized in the formulation of *one principle* concerning music in the church. This principle has immediate implications, however, which are delineated in the accompanying commentary.

PRINCIPLE: *The Music of the Church Should Be Appropriate for worship.*

1. *The music of the church should be liturgical* — In spirit, form, and content it must be a positive expression of Scripturally religious thought and feeling. It should serve the ministry of the Word.
2. *The music of the church should be beautiful* — Its religious thought or spirit should be appropriately embodied in the music as music, the poetry as poetry, and the blending of these in song. It should satisfy the aesthetic laws of balance, unity, variety, harmony, design, rhythm, restraint, and fitness which are the conditions of all art.

The committee is preparing a concise commentary concerning the "Implications of the Principle." The above-stated principle, together with the commentary soon to be completed, furnish the basis for work on Parts II and III of the Mandate (cf. IV and V below).

### IV. REPORT ON MANDATE, PART II

*Revision of the Psalter-Hymnal* — In light of the above principle adopted by the committee, the following was accomplished:

A. *With respect to the text* — The text was studied from various angles:

1. Faithful representation of the Psalm text as far as possible
2. Theological soundness of the hymns
3. Literary quality of the verse
4. In the light of these standards, evaluation of the Psalter section



began with a comparison of our present metrical versions with numerous English praise books of Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and other churches, and taking into consideration the work in English which has been done by the Rev. Hasper in the Netherlands and by Dawson in England.

B. *With respect to the music* —

1. Once a suitable text was adopted, the music was studied for its appropriateness to that text and its suitability for use in congregational song.
2. Recognizing the importance of our Psalm-singing tradition, the Committee plans to use as many of the Genevan Psalm tunes as possible. Further, in line with recent developments in the Netherlands and in America, the committee is seriously considering the notation of these Psalm tunes in their original rhythm.
3. In the evaluation of the first forty Psalms as found in the Psalter-Hymnal (number 1-78), your committee has established a procedure on the basis of which individual songs have been included in, or excluded from, the proposed revision of the Psalter-Hymnal:
  - a) Adoption of text for each Psalm, chosen either from present Psalter-Hymnal or another source
  - b) Provision of enough separate songs to cover the content of each Psalm, eliminating some of the duplication now present in our Psalter-Hymnal
  - c) Provision of appropriate music to accompany text, avoiding unwarranted borrowings and duplications.

With respect to the selection of hymns, the following procedure has been adopted:

- a) Review of topical index and determining the number of hymns for each classification
- b) Evaluation of present hymns (texts and tunes) in light of principle
- c) Nomination of new hymns to meet goal indicated in "a"

C. *The results to date* — a tabulation covering results of committee efforts through December 30, 1952 (Fifth Meeting) is presented in an appendix to this report, and should be referred to at this point.

## V. REPORT ON THE MANDATE, PART III

*Synodically-Approved Hymn Book* — the committee makes the following recommendations concerning this part of its mandate:

- A. That *at this time* Synod does not publish a *new* Youth Hymnal. Grounds:
  1. Any comprehensive new hymnal would in a large measure duplicate the *New Christian Hymnal*.
  2. Our questionnaires returned do not reflect a widespread need for a different type of Hymnal.

B. That Synod secure permission from the editor and publishers to revise the *New Christian Hymnal*.

- Grounds: 1. Most of the users of this Hymnal find it generally satisfactory.
2. The ideas suggested in our mandate and in the questionnaire returns could be incorporated in the *revised Hymnal*.

C. That this *revised Hymnal* become our Synodically-approved hymn book.

- Grounds: 1. We will then benefit from the virtues of the time-tested *New Christian Hymnal*.
2. This will give the Church a Synodically-approved hymn book.

## VI. STATEMENT OF SUGGESTED PLANS

Providing that Synod approves the work of the committee, this group plans to proceed as follows:

### A. *With respect to the Psalter-Hymnal*

1. To continue evaluation of all Psalms and Hymns as indicated in IV, above.
2. To cut down the total number of Psalm selections in the present Psalter-Hymnal by eliminating unwarranted duplication of Psalm settings. As a consequence, there will be additional space in the praise book for additional carefully-chosen hymns.
3. Additional study must be made with reference to the needs of our ministers for adequate topical coverage in the hymn section.
4. In the event of Synodical approval of the work to date, your committee anticipates an acceleration of the work to make possible presentation of the completed revision for consideration by the Synod of 1955, D.V.
5. Progress can be accelerated, e.g., in the Summer of 1953 by designation of an editor who would work under supervision of the committee for the Summer months.

B. *With reference to Original Compositions* — Committee plans to call for such tunes and/or songs, in compliance with Overture 29.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Your committee respectfully brings the following recommendations:

1. That Synod approve the work done to date:
  - a) Mandate, Part I (section III of present Report)
  - b) Mandate, Part II, (section IV of present Report)
  - c) Mandate, Part III (section V of present Report)
2. That Synod approve statement of suggested plans (section VI of present Report)

3. That Synod continue the present committee until Synod of 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY A. BRUINSMA, *Chairman*

DICK L. VAN HALSEMA, *Sec.*

MARVIN BAAS

JAMES DE JONGE

MRS. TRENA HAAN

ADRIAN HARTOG

MISS JOHANNA ORANJE

WILLIAM H. RUTGERS

SEYMOUR O. SWETS

DICK H. WALTERS

HENRY ZYLSTRA

### VIII. APPENDIX

Herewith follows the tabulation referred to in Section IV of the foregoing report, Part "C," page 4. In the various columns, reference is made to numbers in the present *Psalter-Hymnal*, the action of the Committee regarding the selection as a whole is listed (see "Action"), and the final two columns indicate suggestions regarding text and tune separately. Part "A" refers to work on the Psalter section of our denominational praise book, and Part "B" refers to the hymn section.

#### PART A

Psalms	Psalter-Hymnal	Action	Text	Tune
1	1	Retain	.....	Retain
	2	Omit	.....	.....
2	3	Omit	Retain	.....
	4	Retain	Alter	Music Sub-comm. find new suitable tune. Prefer Genevan.
3	5	Retain	Desire new	
4	6	Retain	Alter completely	Replace
	7	Retain	Retain	Retain
	8	Omit	.....	.....
5	9	Retain	Retain	Prefer new tune
6	10	Retain	Polish	Find new tune
	11	Omit	.....	.....
7	12	Retain	Modify	Retain
8	13	Retain	Polish	Retain, but 3/2
	14	Retain	Retain	New tune preferred
9	15	Retain	Retain	Retain (Alter?)
10	16	Retain	New	New
11	17	Retain	Acceptable	Retain
12	18	Retain	New	New
13	19	Retain	Retain	Replace with new
14	20	Retain	Retain	Retain
15	21	Retain	Retain	Retain
16	22	Retain	Retain	Replace
16	23	Retain	Retain	Retain

Psalm	Psalter-Hymnal	Action	Text	Tune
16	24	Retain	Retain	Retain
17	25	Change	Use U.P. Ps. Hymnal No. 24 with additions for Ps. vss. omitted — or all new text	Replace
18	26	Retain	Retain	Replace (LM or LMD)
18	27	Retain	Retain	Retain
18	28	Retain	Retain (Improve?)	Retain
19	29	Retain	Retain	Retain
19	30	Retain	Retain	Retain
19	31	Omit	(Replace with Chr. Hymnal No. 41 entire	
19	32	Retain (?)	Improve	In Rhythm
19	33	Omit	.....	.....
20	34	Retain	Retain	Alter to Tallis Canon (Episc. 165)
21	35	Retain	Retain	Replace
22	36	Retain	Retain	Replace
22	37	Retain	Retain	Retain
22	38	Retain	Retain	Retain
22	39	Omit	.....	.....
22	40	Retain	Retain	Retain, but in D
23	41	Omit	.....	.....
23	42	Retain	Retain	Retain
23	Add	New No.	Text of No. 42	"Marosa" for unison & organ accomp.
23	43	Retain	Retain	Replace
23	44	Omit	.....	.....
23	45	Omit	.....	.....
24	46	Retain	Retain	Replace
24	47	Retain	Retain	Retain
25	48	Retain	Retain	Retain, in rhythm
25	49	Retain	Retain	Replace
25	50	Retain	Retain	Retain
25	51	Omit	.....	.....
26	52	Retain	Retain	Retain
27	53	Retain	Retain	Retain, but alter 3rd line
27	54	Retain	Omit stanza 1, keep 2-7	New treatment: minor, with major in stanza 7?
28	55	Retain	Retain	Replace
29	56	Retain	Retain	Retain, but in lines 1 & 3, 3rd measures, change ATB to straight quarter notes
30	57	Retain	Retain	Replace
31	58	Retain	Retain	Replace with C.M.D. (esp. because same tune used in 405)
31	59	Retain	Retain	Replace
31	60	Omit	.....	.....
32	61	Retain	Retain	Retain

Psalm **	Psalter- Hymnal	Action	Text	Tune
	61			**Consider adding Gen- evan Tune No.
33	62	Retain	Retain	Retain (?) If so, omit fermatas?
33	63	Retain	Retain	Retain (but edit acc. to Gen. rhy.)
34	64	Retain	Retain	Retain (but correct rhythm: measures at end of lines 1, 2, 4 must be similar in time value to end of line 3; also change note "G" in line 3, meas. 3, 2d beat?)
34	65	Retain	Retain	Replace (borrowed tune)
34	66	Omit	.....	— (text duplication; tune in No. 236.)
35	67	Retain	Retain	Replace (borrowed tune; new LMD or 2 LM tunes needed)
36	68	Retain	Retain	Replace (uncertain rhythm here)
36	69	Retain	Retain	Retain
37	70	Retain	Retain	Replace (rhythmically poor)
37	71	Change	Replace (cf *)	New suitable tune

(\*) Version from "The Congregational Hymn and Tune Book,"  
New Haven, 1865, Selection 1157 (this version is better poetry)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Why do the wealthy wicked<br/>boast<br/>And grow profanely bold?<br/>The meanest portion of the just<br/>Excels the sinner's gold.</p> <p>2. The wicked borrows of his<br/>friends,<br/>But ne'er designs to pay;<br/>The saint is merciful, and lends,<br/>Nor turns the poor away.</p> <p>3. His alms with liberal heart he<br/>gives<br/>Among the sons of need;<br/>His memory to long ages lives,<br/>And blessed is his seed.</p> | <p>4. He fears to talk with lips pro-<br/>fane<br/>To slander or defraud;<br/>His ready tongue declares to<br/>men<br/>What he has learned of God.</p> <p>5. The law and gospel of the Lord<br/>Deep in his heart abide;<br/>Led by the Spirit and the Word,<br/>His feet shall never slide.</p> <p>6. When sinners fall, the righteous<br/>stand<br/>Preserved from every snare!<br/>They shall possess the promised<br/>land,<br/>And dwell forever there.</p> |
|---|--|

Psalm	Psalter- Hymnal	Action	Text	Tune
37	72	Retain	Retain	Retain
38	73	Retain	Retain	Retain
39	74	Change	Replace (cf.**)	New suitable tune

(\*\*) Version from same book mentioned in (\*), Selection 553.  
Better verse.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Teach me the measure of my days<br/>Thou maker of my frame;<br/>I would survey life's narrow space<br/>And learn how frail I am.</p> <p>2. A span is all that we can boast<br/>An inch or two of time;<br/>Man is but vanity and dust,<br/>In all his flower and prime.</p> <p>3. See the vain race of mortals move<br/>Like shadows o'er the plain;<br/>They rage and strive, desire and love,<br/>But all their noise is vain.</p> <p>39     75     Retain     Retain<br/>40     76     Retain     Retain<br/>40     77     Retain     Retain</p> <p>40     78     Retain     Retain</p> | <p>4. Some walk in honor's gaudy show,<br/>Some dig for golden ore;<br/>They toil for heirs, they know not who,<br/>And straight are seen no more.</p> <p>5. What should I wish or wait for then,<br/>From creatures, earth, and dust?<br/>They make our expectation vain,<br/>And disappoint our trust.</p> <p>6. Now I forbid my carnal hope,<br/>My fond desires recall;<br/>I give my mortal interests up,<br/>And make my God my all.</p> <p>Retain<br/>Retain<br/>Alter (add 1 measure to lines 2 &amp; 3) for balance, and omit the fermata)<br/>Retain</p> |
|--|--|

PART B

Hymn	Action	Text	Tune
328	Retain	Retain	Retain
329-31	Retain	Retain	Retain
332	Retain	Retain	Retain, but Key of F, quarter notes and revised harmony
333-35	Retain	Retain	Retain
336	Omit	.....	—(Look for another Sabbath Hymn)
337	Retain	Retain	Replace with HARTFORD (Ps. Hymn No. 320)
338	Retain	Retain	Replace (new, original tune?)
339-40	Retain	Retain	Retain
341	Retain	Retain	Alter (make line 3, meas. 3, same as line 1, measure 3, 2d beat)
342	Retain	Retain	Replace (with "Veni Emmanuel," with unison stanza and refrain in parts)
343	Retain	Retain, but compare with other texts	Replace with new tune (borrowed now)
344	Retain	Retain?	Retain rhythm, but use harmonization of recent Ps. Hym. edition
345	Retain	Check: OK?	Retain, but re-check rhythm

Hymn	Action	Text	Tune
346	Retain	Retain	Retain
347	Retain	Retain	Replace with "HANDEL" ("Christmas")
Insert	New	"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"	(Tune, "Carol")
348-50	Retain	Retain	Retain
351	Retain	Sub-comm. recommend suitable text	Retain

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 40-A**

(Art. 57)

**IMPROVEMENT AND REVISION OF THE PSALTER  
HYMNAL AND SYNODICALLY-APPROVED HYMN BOOK**

*Notes*

1. This supplementary report should be considered in connection with Report No. 40. References will be made to No. 40 wherever necessary.
2. The Reporter of the SCIRPH-SAHB, Rev. Dick L. Van Halsema, is ready to represent the Committee and its report before Synod's pre-advisory committee at its convenience.
  1. *Supplement with reference to Report No. 40, section III* (page 2, bottom three lines). Should be read as part of section III.

THE PRINCIPLE OF CHURCH MUSIC AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

(cf. *Principle*, Report 40, page 2)

*Implications:*

1. The music of the Church should represent the full range of the revelation of God.
2. The minister of the Word, on the one hand, and the organist and the choir director on the other, should constantly cooperate, so that the service of music will contribute to the service of the Word.
3. The music of the songs should be artistically defensible as good music; it should not have to rely upon the words to carry it. The poetry of the songs should be good poetry; it should not have to rely upon the music to carry it.
4. Whenever Psalms or other portions of Scripture are involved, the poetry of the songs should be true to the inspired Word. Such poetry should at the same time be vital — free from the defects of artificiality and sentimentality.
5. Whenever songs other than versifications of portions of Scripture are involved, the poetry should be genuinely expressive of religious experience, but should also be in harmony with the whole counsel of God.
6. The music of the Church should be suitable to the liturgical text to which it has been adapted. It should be free from association with the currently secular or with anything that does violence to our Reformed conception of worship.
7. The music of the Church should not be borrowed from that of the dance nor from concert or other music which suggests places and occasions other than the church and the worship service.



8. Such devices as extreme syncopation and extreme chromaticism (although on occasion these may be of value for special text settings) should generally be avoided.
9. Great care must be exercised by the organist and choir director in selecting organ music and anthems, lest a secular association with the music interfere with the worshipper's service.
10. The music of the Church should be expressive of our Reformed tradition and, so far as possible, should make use of the Genevan Psalm tunes and other music of Calvinistic inspiration.

II. *Supplement with reference to Report No. 40, section VI, (page 5, letter "A," points 3, 4, and 5).* Read as part of section VI.

(The following material contains a definite request from the committee for Synod's approval of a plan to carry the work forward if the pattern of such work first receives Synodical approbation).

*Concerning the Plan for Temporary Editors* — Your Committee (for Psalter-Hymnal revision) requests Synod to authorize an honorarium of five-hundred dollars each to two of its members, to be designated temporary co-editors of the Psalter Hymnal revision committee, for determining and preparing the text and the music for recommendation to the Committee. The functions and grounds are listed herewith.

A. *Duties of the Temporary Editor of the Text*

1. To make a comparative study of all available metrical versions of the Psalms.
2. To recommend to the revision Committee the best versions available as determined by:
  - a) Scriptural fidelity
  - b) Poetic effectiveness
3. To recommend modifications of existing metrical versions where these are possible and feasible.
4. To suggest ways of procuring new metrical versions of Psalms for which the existing versions are not acceptable.
5. To judge of the poetic quality of the hymn texts now included in the Psalter Hymnal and of hymn texts being considered by the revision Committee for inclusion in the proposed revised Psalter Hymnal.
6. To cooperate with the Editor of Music in recommending to the revision Committee those versions of the Psalms and Hymns which are suited to the music he recommends.

B. *Duties of the Temporary Editor of the Music*

1. To continue the work of evaluating Psalm tunes and hymn tunes now in the Psalter Hymnal. To make recommendations concerning the retention or deletion of tunes.
2. To recommend substitute melodies for Psalm versifications and hymn texts where needed.

3. In cooperation with the Temporary Editor of the Text to recommend music for new texts for which we now have no suitable melodies.
4. In cooperation with the Temporary Editor of the Text to make recommendations concerning new hymns to fill in those topical areas which are deficient in our present Psalter Hymnal.
5. To prepare a first draft of the proposed new Psalter Hymnal for submission to the revision Committee at its August meeting, the size of this draft to be determined by progress made during the Summer.
6. To recommend to the revision Committee at its August meeting a revised topical index based on the results of questionnaires to be sent out by the committee this Summer.
7. To check source materials for composers, authors, dates, and other bibliographical information which must be verified for publication.

It is expected that the Temporary Editors shall have the advice of all members of the revision Committee available during the Summer, and that they shall keep the members of this Committee informed as to their progress. The work of the Temporary Editors shall be subject to full review by the Committee on revision before (subsequent) submission to Synod.

#### C. *Grounds for Authorization of Temporary Editors*

1. The revision Committee is convinced that the sustained and concentrated work of two such designated editors will make for *economy* of time and of money. (The expense of bringing the revision Committee together is an important item. Because of the distances involved in travel, the revision Committee must spend approximately \$200 for each meeting. The technical work involved in research and study by all committee members who are assigned projects would demand that more time should be spent in Grand Rapids meetings than would be financially feasible. Your revision Committee unanimously believes that this plan of work by two Temporary Editors will represent a great saving to the Church.)
2. The *nature* of the work outlined above is such as cannot be well or expeditiously done in full committee at periodic meetings.
3. The nature of the work outlined is so *demanding* of time and energy as to go beyond the pale of what can reasonably be expected from revision Committee members with academic and Church responsibilities during most of the year.
4. The revision Committee is convinced that the work outlined must be done soon if their work is to be completed two years from date. (Intensive work by two qualified and responsible Temporary Editors will enable the revision Committee to cover as much work in one "review meeting" as could be done in two years of work as it has been carried on thus far. Under this plan the revision Committee

should be able to present a completed Psalter Hymnal revision within two years. Any other system of work would mean four to five years of work, as was the experience of previous committees who worked on the first Psalter-Hymnal.)

5. The nature of the research and evaluation work requires specialized professional qualifications.
6. Experience of similar committees in other denominations confirms the value of engaging specialists for completing assignments involving research and evaluation (cf. Reformed praise book editions from 1790 onward and current "Pan-Presbyterian" compilation to appear soon).

III. *Supplement with reference to Report No. 40, Section VII* (page 6), *Recommendations*. Herewith is presented a revised list of recommendations which the revision Committee respectfully presents for Synodical approval (incorporating 1, 2, and 3 found on page 6, Report No. 40).

A. That Report No. 40 and this Supplement be received for information.

B. That Synod approve the "Statement of Principle" concerning the music of the Church, called for by Part I of the Committee's Mandate (cf. Report No. 40, page 2, under III).

C. That Synod approve the "Implications of the Principle" (Supplementary Report, page 1, Part I), and recommend their study to the churches.

D. That Synod approve the plan for "Revision of the Psalter Hymnal," Part II of Mandate, (cf. Report No. 40, pages 3 and 4, Section IV, A and B), concerning both the text (A) and the music (B).

E. That Synod approve the preliminary results of this revision plan (cf. Section VIII, Report No. 40, pages 6 through 10).

F. That Synod approve the recommendations of the revision Committee concerning Part III of its Mandate, concerning the question of a "Synodically-approved Hymn Book" (cf. Report No. 40, section V, pages 4 to 5), endorsing points A, B, and C. (\*)

G. That Synod approve the "Plan for Temporary Editors" as requested and explained in Supplementary Report, section II (A, B, and C).

H. That Synod continue the present revision Committee until Synod of 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

Synodical Committee for the Revision  
and Improvement of the Psalter Hymnal  
and Synodically-Approved Hymn Book  
DICK L. VAN HALSEMA, *Reporter*

(\*) If recommendation "F" is adopted, Synod is requested to express its desires as to execution of points B and C.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 41**  
(Art. 162)

**PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

ESTEEMED BRETHERN:

Your committee appointed to study the "Principles of Christian Education" as they were set forth by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 (Acts of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, 1949, pages 22-26) and briefly summarized by the Advisory Committee to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church of 1951 (Acts of Synod, 1951, page 44), and upon whose recommendation our committee was appointed, now humbly submits the following report:

The mandate of our committee was to study the "Principles of Christian Education" as set forth by the Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 and to present our findings to the members of the Christian Reformed Church.

We have analyzed the nine principles and have come to the conclusion that for the sake of brevity and clarity they should be reduced to five principles as follows:

- Principles 1 and 2 to be combined into Principle 1
- Principles 4 and 5 to be combined into Principle 2
- Principle 3 to have separate standing as Principle 3
- Principles 6 and 7 to be combined into Principle 4
- Principles 8 and 9 to be combined into Principle 5

The five principles with explanatory statements as recommended by your committee are as follows:

- I. *Believing parents are called of God to instruct their children in the fear of the Lord.*

Such parents have not only the right and the duty to understand the promises of the covenant but also the calling to instruct their children in the way of the covenant. They must guide them wisely (Eph. 6:4) and must teach them to obey their parents in the Lord (Eph. 6:1).

In Christian marriage husband and wife are one, live together in the covenant of God (Eph. 5:22-25), and have "a common responsibility for the nurture of the children the Lord may give them as His heritage and as parties to His covenant." (Form for the Solemnization of Marriage)

The union of a believer with an unbeliever in marriage should therefore be avoided. Yet, if there be such a union, it is the responsibility of the individual believer to bring up the children in the way of the covenant.

II. *Parents may enlist the aid of others in the task of educating their children, but the responsibility for this education continues with the parents and is non-transferable.*

Believing parents are primarily responsible for teaching "the true and complete doctrine of salvation" and promise to "cause them (their children) to be instructed therein." (Form for Baptism of Infants)

Parents may enlist the aid of others in this task of educating their children, but in so doing they should ever be mindful of the fact that instruction in the way of the covenant can alone be given in faith by believers and in schools which are wholly subject to the Word of God.

The responsibility for the education of children is non-transferable, for the covenant duty of parents is no more transferable than their covenant privilege. Hence Christian parents themselves, and not the state or any secular agency, are responsible for the spirit in which the education of their children is conducted.

III. *Catechetical instruction is a particular ministration of the Word instituted by the Church for covenant children.*

Children who are without experience of the Word of righteousness, being babes should be fed first with milk (Heb. 5:13) in order to be prepared for solid food (Heb. 5:13).

The purpose of catechesis is to teach the child that material which he needs to know in order to be prepared for making profession of faith in the Christian Reformed Church, to be a well informed member thereof, to take an active part in its work, to be an intelligent witness to its teachings, and to live a full-orbed Christian life in agreement with these teachings.

To this ministry the officers of the church must give diligent attention to see to it that covenant children are instructed in the principles of Christian doctrine, that faith may grow up to full stature in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (II Peter 3:18)

IV. *Education in the way of the covenant includes the whole of the child's nurture as well as the development of his talents for God's glory.*

Believing parents are responsible for their children's nurture in its entirety and should therefore make use of the means which God has graciously provided to assist them in this task, such as the Christian school and youth and social organizations that are Reformed in character.

This is the world and life view which is taught in Deut. 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Believing parents should try to identify and develop the aptitudes and talents of their children, recognizing that the diversity of gifts is according to God's decree and that these gifts are to be used for God's glory. I Cor. 7:7 and I Peter 4:10.

V. *Christian education must foster the development of the principles of Christ in every area of life.*

The individual must learn to understand his tasks and responsibilities in the contemporary society in which he will be required to apply these Christian principles. This implies that each one should have an understanding of the economic, social, political, and religious problems of the human race.

As all have an individual calling within the national life so also all are duty bound to give consideration to this task in relation to the community of nations. This is so because each one is responsible for the preservation of these principles for the future generations, as is plainly taught in the Scriptures. Ps. 78:1-8; Ps. 102:18; Ps. 34:11; Deut. 6:7; Joel 1:3.

Respectfully submitted,

OTTO DE GROOT, *Secretary*

HENRY J. KUIPER

JOHN A. VAN BRUGGEN

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 42**

(Art. 127)

**ECUMENICITY AND INTER-CHURCH CORRESPONDENCE****ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

We wish to report to your body on three matters: I. General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church; II. The Reformed Churches of Australia; III. Communications from the Synods of Grafschaft-Bentheim-Ostfriesland, and in Niedersachsen.

**I. GENERAL PRESBYTERY OF THE KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*A. Orientation:* The General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church should be kept distinct from the General Assembly of the Korean Presbyterian Church. The latter cast out the former, as a communication puts it, "Out of their synagogue."

The General Presbytery is composed of about 355 churches small and large. Its initial assembly was held on the second Tuesday of September, 1952.

This Presbytery is the continuation of true Presbyterianism in Korea. Its members sought to perpetuate an undiluted Calvinism in the old church, but met with rebuff instead of appreciation. After the World War it called upon all of the former church to repentance and a sincere confession of the sin of Shinto-worship. During the war some of the leaders suffered prison sentences rather than idolatry. When communism infiltrated Korea many were translated to eternity through the portals of martyrdom. They are not sectarians but honest followers of our Lord who have given them to see the truth as we Reformed people know it.

There are three seminaries in Korea, one very outspokenly liberal, the second supported by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and the Presbyterian Church, U.S. This is a middle-of-the-road seminary. Of Dr. Han, one of its professors and to be distinguished from the Revs. Han of the Korean Theological Seminary, it is alleged: "Nobody can think of him as being a Calvinist or as a dependable conservative man. Therefore we can not take this seminary as a stronghold of Calvinistic theology." Consequently the General Presbytery maintains the Korean Theological Seminary at Pusan, staffed with men with both conviction and ability and a contagious zeal for the Reformed faith. This church and seminary represent an ideal that inspired a man like Dr. A. Kuyper. Their one desire is to spearhead Calvinism in Korea, the only nation on the Asiatic continent free to do so. Here faith, truth, zeal, sacrifice, and strategy blend.

This new "General Presbytery," cast out from the General Assembly, has sent two communications to your body which we shall incorporate in this report in full. This General Presbytery has already received your blessings in the creation of the denominational committee on Korean Spiritual Relief. This Presbytery is the beneficiary of this relief. Our Grand Rapids diaconate channelled relief to its members since it felt a deep spiritual kinship. The Rev. R. Sutton, upon request of our committee, has given us a frank evaluation of this new denomination. Says our missionary to Japan who visited Korea:

"We have failed them in supplying the one thing they need most, namely missionaries and teachers, but I believe we can offer them some moral support in drawing them closer to us through church relationship and correspondence. Certainly we cannot do less for they are our brethren in Jesus Christ, but more so, they desire to advance the interpretation of the Holy Scriptures which we believe is identical with God's Word, the Reformed Faith.

"Their strength in the number of churches and individual Christians grow larger as the days pass by. The Seminary continues to graduate well-trained men and in the recently held entrance examinations, there were eighty students seeking admission to the preparatory course. Future prospects, in spite of the great problems, are indeed encouraging.

"They look to our denomination for strength and encouragement and I sincerely hope and pray that we shall favorably consider this church and administer to them that 'cool drink of water' in the Savior's name.

Yours in His Service,

(Signed) R. J. Sutton

*B. Communications Addressed to Synod:*

Fathers and Brethren in Christ:

We are a committee elected by the highest council of the newly formed Presbyterian Churches of Korea, to make a petition to you as follows:

1. We are beseeching your church to be a corresponding church with ours.
2. We are asking you to send your missionaries to us. We are in crying need of the true messengers of God who preach the Reformed Faith in this land. Our church tries to be true to the Reformed Faith, and seeks in this critical time every possible help especially from you towards this goal.

Enclosed you will find a paper in which we try to tell you about the history of our Reformed Church Movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Y. S. LEE

SONHYUK PARK

SANG TONG, HAN

YUNE SUN PARK



## FATHERS AND BRETHREN:

At the meeting of the General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church held in Chinju, on the second Tuesday of September, 1952, we were instructed to convey the Christian greetings of that body to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church and to thank your church through your highest court for its interest in our struggles in Korea.

Your stand in America has been an inspiration to us in these days of apostasy. Your gifts have relieved the physical suffering of our people and helped us in the task of training Christian leaders. The visit of your representatives has been a visible proof of the interest of your denomination in our movement.

In the previous letter we have enclosed an article which we hope will appear in the papers of your movement and be read by all your ministers and elders. It tells of the struggles through which our church has come and its present status.

We were asked by our General Presbytery to urge that you take official action extending to us fraternal relations.

Our Presbytery is anxious that you should send missionaries to Korea to work in connection with the General Presbytery in establishing and extending the Reformed testimony, the Gospel, according to the Scriptures, in Korea, and from here to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Respectfully submitted,

YUNE SUN PARK

Y. S. LEE

SONHYUK PARK

SANG TONG HAN

*C. Matters demanding our attention*

1. General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church be given the status of a corresponding church.
2. The request to send missionaries to Korea.
3. The request to send through our Synod to our constituency the gratitude of the church of Korea for the relief sent them.
4. The request to have the history of this church published in our church press that our ministers and elders may know about it. This history was sent to us with the above communications.

*D. Recommendations:*

1. Your committee recommends to Synod to grant the General Presbytery of the Korean Presbyterian Church the status of corresponding church.

(NOTE: This status usually implies wherever feasible there shall be delegation to a corresponding church's major assembly. It is not prohibitive as far as time, expense, and travel convenience nor empty ecclesiastical pageantry to send one of our missionaries in Japan to this church's Assembly. The close contact between the Reformed

Church in Japan, the Kobe Seminary and Korean Theological Seminary would have a triangular benefit for the two churches and our own denomination.)

2. Our committee has no recommendation re sending missionaries to Korea. This is not within the province of our committee. *Officially* our Mission Board has not been notified of this request, but perhaps said Board could advise Synod in this matter. We are happy that in an era of shrinking mission fields there is an open field, at least still open, to spread the Reformed Faith. There is the Korean Macedonian crying: "Come over and help us!" Our committee has decided to inform Synod.
3. We recommend that Synod transmit to our members the gratitude of this denomination for the appreciated help we were privileged to give. Such could be done through the news reports of Synod in the *Banner* and the *Wachter*.
4. We would recommend Synod to address an epistle of encouragement to our brethren in Korea specifically in their stand for the Reformed Faith, and also in their hour of suffering and trial.
5. (We have no recommendation re the publishing of the history of this church in our church press. It is a history of sacrifice and martyrdom that inspires us. Our editors can obtain the document at any time.)

## II. REFORMED CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

A. *Orientation*: Our stated clerk has received a communication from the Reformed Churches in Australia seeking the status of a sister church. These brethren emigrated from the Netherlands not too long ago. Affiliation with the Free Presbyterian Church, one of our corresponding churches, would not be for the best interest of both denominations. Antecedents are different and in their worship they cannot find each other. The Free Church, for example, is against instrumental music as a matter of principle. There is a very cordial relation between the two. Consequently these immigrants organized their own denomination. Originally most of them were members of our sister church, the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands.

B. *Recommendation*: Your committee recommends that said new denomination, the Reformed Churches of Australia, receive the status of a sister church.

## III. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM TWO SYNODS OF THE ALTRE-FORMIERTE KIRCHEN IN GERMANY

A. *Orientation*: The following communications are from our sister churches in Germany we supported immediately after World War II. This support has engendered and kept a glow in their heart for our denomination. This support was channelled through the then German

Hungarian Spiritual Relief Committee, which committee Synod has since honorably discharged and reconstituted as the Korean Spiritual Relief Committee. Such was our privileged duty at that time rewarded by the happiness of being a Christian steward. The following two communications must be read in the light of this background.

B. *Communications from two Synods* (No doubt Synod will desire these communications to be read in translation, the originals are filed with the Stated Clerk.)

1. Synod of the Altreformierte Kirchen of the Synod of Grafschaft, Bentheim, and Ostfriesland.

November 19, 1952

Esteemed Men and Brethren:

As secretary of the Synod of the Altreformierte Kirchen of Grafschaft, Bentheim, and Ostfriesland, it is an honor and a privilege to give you a brief report of the state of affairs particularly in relation to the training for the ministry in our churches. (We have translated *Prediger nachwuchs* as training for the ministry, a word of recent coinage evidently, and most suitable to the text. J. T. H.)

We experience constantly that we are indebted to give you this report. We know very well that we must thank you in a great measure for your love and sacrifice relative to the training for the ministry when we were in need.

It is indeed a joyful fact that in the post-war years several of our young people of our circle felt called to seek a theological training. Very often money was not to be had for such a theological education. You can easily understand, therefore, that we shall never forget what your church has done for us in those trying post-war years.

The Synod of our churches has therefore instructed me to convey to your Synod our most thankful greetings.

Sorry that I can do it only now. Our Synod adjourned this summer and even until now I am still waiting for a report from Prof. Grosheide relative to the students studying in Amsterdam. To my regret this report until now has not been forthcoming. Dr. H. Ridderbös gives the following evaluation of our students at Kampen: "To my joy I am able to inform you that the conduct of the German students until now has given no occasion for complaint. They are, as far as we can determine, industrious, even though the diversity of gifts is also applicable here."

We are thankful that our theological students can receive good testimonials. Student H. Baarlink successfully submitted to his candidate's examination with his first ecclesiastical examination. At present he is enrolled for a semester at Gottingen, Germany, and will, if God so wills, announce his candidacy in Spring.

There are five vacant churches in our thirteen churches. Candidate Baarlink consequently will not have to wait too long for a call. Student

Vogt was seriously ill for a long time, but he is now on the road to betterment and will in a few months continue his studies at home. We hope that in the course of the next few years, also of student A. Leij, he can take his candidate's examination.

Thus we live in anticipation that after a few years all of our churches can have their own minister of the gospel. We shall never forget that you have in a very generous way supported us. Naturally we would be very thankful to you if we could reckon on your love and thoughtfulness relative to our Student Fund.

With fraternal greetings as authorized by our Synod,

(Signed) J. KOSTER, *Secretary*

2. The second communication comes from the Altreformierte Kirchen in Niedersachsen.

May 2, 1953

ESTEEMED MEN, AND BELOVED BRETHREN:

At our most recent synodical gathering we discussed, among other things, the relationship of our church in America. The desire was expressed that in the future our churches would establish a more direct contact with your churches than is the case at present. The possibility thereto is again fully and entirely given, and a more direct and closer contact appeared desirable to our assembly.

Our Synod has instructed me as its secretary to address a communication to your Synod to convey to you our cordial greetings and wishes for blessings. In the name of our Synod I wish your meetings the blessings of God and the light of His Word. May your deliberations in which you are engaged be for the welfare of your church and for the honor of the King of the church.

Outwardly our churches are living under blessed relationships. Apart from the fact that some of our congregations are and have been vacant for a long time, other congregations have regularly the ministry of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments. For the vacant congregations there is the anticipation that their need in a few years will be supplied. Hopefully during the month of May a congregation will be organized in Hoogstede. Buildings and parsonage will be ready so that most likely a call can be extended to a pastor. At Emden a new parsonage is being built, and in all congregations a "house" collection is being carried out. Upon completion the work of calling will be undertaken. A lady evangelist is already stationed there.

Concerning church interests in the congregations, also among our youth, we have generally little to complain about. The church is often opposed in this age, not only by the world, but also through many "Christian" streams of thought. Many Christians would desire something different, or they presuppose that something new must be offered. This implies that the church of Christ must first of all, in the good

sense of the word, be conservative. The old gospel is always new. And Christ is always the way to life. And the Holy Spirit always works faith through the preaching of the Holy Gospel.

Let us, therefore, above all be faithful in the preaching of the Word of God, and with the Word of God alone to "risk" it. (und es mit dem Worte Gottes Allein "wagen.") This is the mandate for us and for you.

Pastor Mensink was emeritated because of health. He lives at present in Bentheim. The elderly pastors Kolthoff and Schuurmann are not doing too well. P. Kolthoff, already 83 years of age, shows declining strength. It seems that the Lord will call him home very soon. Conditions are not that serious with P. Schuurmann, but he is becoming weaker. He is now 78 years old.

P. Lankamp has received a mandate to write a history of our churches which will appear in the Jubileum of the Theological School of Kampen, the Lord willing.

Herewith I must close. Again, cordial greetings and well-wishes.

For the Synod,

(Signed) J. KORTMANN, *Secretary*

#### C. *Matters to be considered*

We call Synod's attention to the information these letters contain, definitive of a mutual faith, a fraternal love, and a desire on the part of the German churches to thank our church for what we were privileged to do for them in their post-war era.

Specifically there are two matters, the first letter informs us that should we be inclined to support a student for their ministry such a gesture would be very welcome to that Synod.

The second letter feels that closer contact should be reestablished. Our Synod could express itself as favoring this closer contact, and could instruct its committee on ecumenicity to take this matter under advisement.

#### D. *Recommendations:*

1. Synod receive these communications from our German sister churches as information.
2. Synod instruct its Stated Clerk to wish the brethren, on behalf of Synod, the blessings of our covenant God upon all their work.
3. Synod reply to the Altreformierte Kirchen in Niedersachsen that the desire for closer contact is mutual, and that it will instruct its committee on ecumenicity to take this under advisement.

Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Correspondence,

DR. WM. RUTGERS, *Chairman*  
 DR. J. T. HOOGSTRA, *Secretary*  
 DR. R. J. DANHOF  
 REV. M. MONSMA

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 43**

(Art. 157)

**IMMIGRATION COUNCIL RE REORGANIZATION  
OF IMMIGRATION WORK**

## ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

On the synodical table is also the matter of reorganization of our immigration work in Canada. The Immigration Committee has a proposal, also the Classes Hamilton and E. Ontario have dealt with the matter and are sending to synod suggestions for such reorganization.

Enclosed is a proposal from the Immigration Council of Ontario. This Council consists of representatives from the immigration societies of Ontario. Thus this Council represents, one might say, our people in the immigration societies. We believe that Synod in considering the proposals would also want to hear the opinion of said Council in its capacity of representing our societies.

The Council, and undersigned as its president, therefore respectfully ask that its proposal be given consideration along with the others in order that all angles of the matter may receive due recognition.

Humbly submitted,  
JOHN GRITTER

## Reorganization of Our Immigration Work

1. Why the Council took up this matter:
  - a. A letter from the Toronto League asked us to take up this matter;
  - b. The classes Hamilton and E. Ontario are taking this up by study committees in order to present something on it to the next Synod. This may have far-reaching consequences for our immigration work. We feel that we cannot afford to let this pass by without looking into it;
  - c. We have repeatedly heard voices that a reorganization of the work is needed;
  - d. We feel that leadership in this matter is expected of us as a body representing our immigration societies in Ontario;
  - e. This is also in line with a constitution once presented to this council, though we are not sure that it was adopted, it expresses what would be expected of a body like this.
2. The Council went on record, first of all, as expressing great appreciation for the work done thus far by the committee and the fieldmen. They provided for a need for which at the time no other body was available; they worked earnestly and persistently and accomplished much. If their work was not perfect it was not because of lack of their

devotion on their part, but partly also because of lack of proper organization. The Council registered its appreciation of the work done.

3. Nevertheless we felt that a reorganization was in order, and that for the following reasons:

a. Reason of principle: Immigration work, that is, the placing of immigrants and their further assistance, is not the task of the Church as an institution. We believe that on this there is among us no disagreement. In the beginning the Church was the only body available to attend to this necessary work, and it undertook to do it because of its importance for the Church, but this should be only temporary. As soon as possible this should be taken over by an organization to whose sphere it properly belongs. That is in line with the commonly accepted principle of "souvereiniteit in eigen kring," which means much to us and to which we ought to adhere.

b. Reason of method: The common conception among us is that organizations are built up from below. In church life we have consistory, classis, and synod. Youth and similar organizations have local societies, leagues and federations. We began that way in our immigration work. Our first fieldmen, we are told, were appointed by societies formed here in Ontario. Somehow, later this was changed and the whole matter came to rest in the committee appointed by Synod, so that now we have organization and guidance and control from the top down. We believe that this procedure ought to be reversed and we should organize from the bottom up. The present set-up is out of line with common procedure among us. It may have been necessary for a time because of practical considerations, but it should be reversed as soon as possible.

c. Lack of control over the work of the fieldmen. This control is exercised by a committee which at the most meets twice a year. For the rest they must work by correspondence. The fieldmen report to the committee. Our impression is that the fieldmen are left pretty much on their own and that there should be more supervision.

d. Lack of co-operation between the fieldmen and the missionaries. We prefer not to mention names because the intent is not to strike at certain people. If necessary we are prepared to cite definite instances to substantiate this point.

e. The present set-up does not stimulate local initiative. There is too much of a feeling that things are regulated from above, that the societies have no voice in the shaping of policies and the actual regulation of work done, that actually there is little that can be done.

4. We propose reorganization along the following lines:

a. Stimulation of the organization of immigration societies everywhere in Canada. In Ontario we have our local societies and leagues

and a national council. The same set-up should be encouraged in the other provinces where our people have settled. Out of these should arise some day a national organization representing all our people in Canada. Our aim should be that at some time in the future this organization should take over the work now done by the synodical committee for immigration.

b. Since the spiritual care of the immigrants, which is the work of the Church, is so closely connected with the immigration work, we believe that the two agencies, the Federation of Immigration Societies and the Church, should work together in one body.

c. We propose the following arrangement:

Four members to be chosen by the Council in Ontario;

Three members to be chosen from Western Canada (as long as there are only leagues there these to be chosen by the leagues, later by the overall Federation Council);

One member to be appointed by each of the Canadian Classes;

The Home Missionary-at-Large to represent the Church at large.

This would make a body of twelve men, representing both the immigration societies and the Church.

d. This body would choose its own officers, meet twice a year or oftener if necessary, appoint an Executive Committee to act in emergencies, plan the policies to be followed, appoint and dismiss the fieldmen, place each fieldman under the supervision of its members in his part of Canada, deal with the government, railroads, etc., do all that the present immigration committee does.

e. We envision financial support from three sources:

1) Two dollars a member from each society. This could be taken out of the three dollars now paid into the sickness insurance.

2) Offerings taken in the churches.

3) Subsidy from synod, as at present, by means of a quota. This would be put into the treasury of the committee, as now. We would hope that gradually synod could reduce this subsidy as our movement here grows stronger.

JOHN GRITTER, *President*



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 44**  
(Arts. 57, 62)

**DENOMINATIONAL BUILDING**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Your Denominational Building Committee desires to call the following to your attention:

In order to get the historical setting we are giving a few facts: Synod of 1945 appointed this committee "to study the feasibility of a Denominational Building to provide offices and committee rooms for the various denominational agencies." (Acts 1945, p. 42)

Synod of 1945 adopted the recommendation of this committee that Synod provide such a building, but erection was postponed. (Acts 1946, p. 32)

Synod of 1950 rejected two proposals as to location. (Acts 1950, p. 18).

Synod of 1951 (Acts 1951, p. 21, 22) authorized the committee to purchase the property at the northeast corner of Fuller and Franklin, at approximately \$17,000, providing zoning requirements could be met; and to proceed with the erection of the proposed building at a total cost of approximately \$130,000.00. Determined opposition by the residents of the neighborhood, however, prevented the committee to carry out the instructions to proceed.

Consequently, the committee came to the Synod of 1952 with a proposal to put the building on the 7½ acre site east of Giddings Avenue. (Acts of 1952, p. 61). This proposal was rejected and Synod "instructed the Denominational Building Committee, the Calvin Board of Trustees, and the Long Range Planning Committee to explore jointly the possibility of securing additional property from the Clark Estate with a view to the possible erection of the Denominational Building on such property and report to Synod of 1953."

In pursuing the mandate of Synod it became apparent very soon that there was not the least possibility of obtaining any additional property from the Clark Estate at this time.

Instead of remaining inactive during the whole ensuing year, till the next meeting of Synod, your committee decided to look around for other possible sites. In previous years having exhausted possible locations near Calvin and elsewhere in the city, we now began to look toward the outskirts. At that time we became aware of the fact that the Pub-

lication Committee was also looking for a location for their future expanded plant. They had already obtained an option on a very desirable plot, which besides accessibility and beautiful location, on the southeast corner of Kalamazoo Avenue and the Beltline, had also the advantage of being of ample size; a nine acre plot, for a joint building project of the Denominational Building and the enlarged Printing Plant and Offices as needed by the Publication Committee. The whole plot must be bought in one at the cost of \$50,000.00 but the property is roomy enough for a possible erection of a future Church or Christian School on the eastern part of it, which is a good possibility in the not too distant future.

The Denomination would benefit in more than one way. Your committee feels that whereas our attempts to locate near Calvin College and Seminary have failed; this location in joint action with the Publication Committee is very desirable. As to accessibility, it is just  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Calvin College along Giddings to Burton and thence Kalamazoo Ave. to Beltline. From the downtown district, the proposed limited Access Expressway will run straight to the south and intersect with the Beltline west of Division Avenue. Anyone coming from east, west, north, or south, having business with the denominational offices or the Publication Committee has easy access by the Beltline. The fact that the buildings will be joined together should make for economy in janitor service, in heating and possibly in the service of the receptionist and other help.

Your committee therefore recommends:

1. That Synod authorize the two committees, the Publication Committee, and the Denominational Building Committee, to complete the option they hold on the property located at the southeast corner of Kalamazoo Avenue and 28th Street and purchase it at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00.

2. Synod authorize the joint committees to proceed with the erection of the joint building along the lines as set forth in the joint proposal and sketches submitted to Synod.

*Grounds:*

1. The situation of the property is very desirable as to location and accessibility. The possibilities as to beautification are ample and the whole layout will be a credit to our denomination.
2. Parking facilities will be ample and eating facilities will very likely be available shortly as a National Restaurant Chain has been scouting around for a site in the vicinity.
3. It is in a fast growing neighborhood and our people are moving into it in great numbers.

4. The joint building will work for economy in heating, janitor service, and possible joint use of office help.
5. The Committee has appointed Herman Baker and Peter D. Bouma as its representatives and asks that they be given the opportunity to represent us on the floor of Synod and before the Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

H. BAKER, *President*

PETER D. BOUMA, *Secretary*

JAMES J. RYSKAMP

DR. H. J. KREULEN

W. HOFSTRA

R. VAN DELLEN

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 45**  
(Arts. 57, 62)

**THE CHICAGO BUILDING**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

Herewith the study committee re the Chicago Building, appointed by the Synod of 1952, presents its report.

1. **OUR MANDATE:** "Synod decides to appoint a Committee to investigate the possibilities for using the Chicago building under discussion for our Publication Plant, and to defer action on the matter until this Committee reports at the next Synod." Acts 1952, p. 103.

II. **OUR INVESTIGATION:** Your committee thoroughly examined the building referred to in our mandate, and upon our invitation, representatives of the Publication Committee met with us to inspect the building.

III. **OUR FINDINGS:**

A. *Concerning the building.*

1. *Location.* The building is located on the corner of 109th and Michigan, in the heart of the Roseland area. It is situated in an industrial section two blocks from a good trading center.

2. *Available Space.* The dimensions of the building are 125 by 129 feet. It is a two-story building with no basement except a small excavation to accommodate a coal-fired boiler. There is a little over 32,000 square feet of floor space available on the two floors of the building, of which 2500 square feet are being leased to the Back to God Radio Committee. A garage and a furniture dealer have other leases, and these run through June, 1955.

3. *Adequacy.* The building under consideration is altogether adequate for our publication needs. It is a brick veneer building of concrete and steel construction. The lower front is remodeled with glass-blocks, replacing the former plate glass windows. The reinforced concrete floors are of sufficient strength to stand all loads that might reasonably be put on them by printing machinery and paper stocks of our printing establishment. At the rear of the building there is a large elevator, originally installed to move cars to the second floor and to the roof. There are exits in the side and back of the building to accommodate large trucks. These exits are equipped with solid steel sliding shutters.

4. *Possession.* According to present information the building will eventually belong to our church and we can be reasonably sure that we will receive the building.

B. *Concerning Union Membership.*

In connection with the consideration of Chicago as the home of our Publication Plant, the question of union membership inevitably arises.

Moving our plant to Chicago does not mean that we would face difficulties with the union, for a large number of the printing shops in Chicago are non-union.

#### IV. *Our Conclusions.*

##### A. *Arguments for moving our Printing Plant to the Chicago Building.*

1. It is a sound and substantial building with plenty of floor space.
2. Our own Publication Plant would then be able to print the Back to God Sermons, the Family Altar and other Back to God Radio publications.
3. The Publication Office and the Back to God Office would be able to use the same mailing facilities.
4. The difference in the expense of moving our printing equipment from our present plant to another plant in Grand Rapids or Chicago is negligible.
5. Since Chicago is the hub of transportation and communication, the circulation of The Banner and De Wachter would be greatly facilitated.
6. The estimated commercial value of the building at the present time is from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

##### B. *Arguments against moving our Printing Plant to the Chicago Building.*

1. The labor cost of printing our publications in the Chicago area would be considerably higher than in Grand Rapids. Union-scale compositors' wages for a 36¼ hour week are \$104.50; linotype operators receive \$102.90; pressmen, \$98.50 to \$103.50. Overtime at one-and-one-half the regular rate starts from 36¼ hours. Work on Saturday is figured as double time. This is about 15% above our present cost.
2. The remodeling of the building would cost at least \$50,000.
3. The property is in an area in which values are declining. As in other cities, the movement is outward to the suburbs.
4. The parking problem, although not acute immediately, would be bound to become so increasingly.
5. It is wiser to build the plant according to specifications for a printing plant.

#### V. *Our Recommendation:*

We recommend that Synod authorize the moving of our Publication Plant to the Chicago Building.

##### *Grounds:*

1. It would mean the consolidation of our printing efforts. Even though labor costs are higher in Chicago, this would be offset by having the Back to God printing done by our own plant.

2. It would unite our efforts to evangelize by the printed page.
3. It would mean that The Banner could arrive by Sunday in all the areas of our denomination.
4. In the event that Synod should decide to make Chicago the center of any of our other Boards or Committees there would be ample space in this building for offices.

Note: When the building becomes available to us and before we remodel, it would be wise to investigate the possibilities of erecting a new building. It might be to our advantage to sell the building and then to build a new one elsewhere in the Chicago area, instead of remodelling the present building.

Your Committee requests Synod that our secretary, Rev. J. F. Schuurmann, be permitted to defend our report before Synod and its advisory committee.

Humbly submitted,

OLIVER BREEN, *Chairman*

J. F. SCHUURMANN, *Secretary*

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 46**  
(Art. 96)

**SYNODICAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

June 15, 1953.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

I am pleased to present to you for your consideration itemized statements of monies that have come into my hands as Synodical Treasurer as well as the disbursements of these funds as they have been made by me. I understand that these statements are made a part of the permanent files of Synod but, for your information, I submit the following to show the status of the several funds at the close of the fiscal year 1952-1953:

<b>ECUMENICAL SYNOD</b>		
June 12, 1952, Balance of cash on hand.....	\$13,276.71	
Paid out as per statement and transferred to Synodical Expense account....	8,856.65	
June 15, 1953, Balance of cash on hand.....		\$ 4,420.07
<b>SYNODICAL EXPENSE FUND</b>		
June 12, 1952, Overdrawn as per previous statement..\$	-193.59	
Receipts as per statement.....	9,197.74	
	9,004.15	
Transferred from Ecumenical Synod Fund .....	6,065.49	
and from Denominational Building Fund .....	12,000.00	
	27,069.64	
Paid out as per statement.....	27,069.64	
June 15, 1953, Balance of cash on hand.....		0.00
<b>DENOMINATIONAL BUILDING FUND</b>		
June 12, 1952, Balance of cash on hand.....	\$41,100.00	
Receipts as per statement.....	34,444.89	
	75,545.79	
Transferred to Synodical Expense Fund as temporary loan .....	12,000.00	
June 15, 1953, Balance of cash on hand.....		63,545.79
<b>GRAND TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$67,965.86</b>

As a precaution the Ecumenical Synod and Synodical Expense Funds are being carried in a commercial (checking) account in the Peoples National Bank of Grand Rapids and the Denominational Building Fund

is being carried in several Banks and Building & Loan Associations as follows:

\$14,165.77 — Old Kent (commercial account)  
10,685.50 — Central Bank (commercial account)  
13,122.53 — Peoples National Bank (commercial account)  
4,737.10 — Union Bank of Michigan (savings account)  
10,540.46 — G.R. Mutual Federal Savings & Loan Association  
10,294.43 — Mutual Home Federal Savings & Loan Association

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\$63,545.79

Your attention is called to the fact that it has been necessary to draw on other funds to meet the expenses of Synod. This is due to the fact that the Synodical quotas did not begin to come in until after January 1, 1953, and the expenses are becoming much higher year after year. I feel that the quota for the coming year should be increased. As soon as funds are available re-imburement will be made to the funds from which monies were transferred temporarily.

Wishing you the continued blessing of our covenant God, I am

Fraternally yours,

TONY NOORDWIER  
*Synodical Treasurer*



**SUPPLEMENT NO. 47**  
(Art. 82)

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**REPORTS OF THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE  
AND OF THE STATED CLERK**

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*To the Synod of 1953*

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN:**

*A. The Report of the Synodical Committee.*

1. Soon after adjournment of the Synod of 1952 a request came to us from the Society for Christian School for Retarded Children to be undertaken in the city of Grand Rapids or its immediate vicinity, and to provide this organization with the permission to solicit funds for this cause from our churches. Your committee deemed this cause to be purely of a local nature well able to be taken care by interested parties in Grand Rapids and consequently denied the request to solicit funds from our churches, and requested said organization if necessary to contact the three Classes of Grand Rapids.

2. The Synodical Treasurer, Mr. T. Noordewier, contacted your committee to state that he was unable to meet the accounts due for the Synod of 1952 and other incidental expenses incurred with the defraying of expenses for delegates discharging the work of the church. Your committee authorized our Synodical Treasurer to effect a loan from funds in his charge and to repay this loan as soon as he would be able. In his own report the present financial status will be presented for your information.

3. In agreement with the request of the Synod of 1952 to appoint delegates to represent our Church at various Church Assemblies in line with our decisions re Church Correspondence the following brethren were appointed:

- 1) Rev. C. Holtrop to attend the Assembly of the Associate Ref. Presbyterian Church.
- 2) Rev. A. Hoekema to attend the Synod of the Free Magyar Reformed Church.
- 3) Rev. B. Spalink to attend the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- 4) Dr. O. Holtrop to attend the Synod of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

In all these appointments your committee reckoned with ministers who live in the nearest proximity of the place of meeting.

4. Your committee approved the appointment of Rev. B. J. Haan as the Synodical Examiner for Classis Sioux Center due to the departure of both primus and alternate delegates.

5. Your committee also approved the appointment of 5 delegates to attend the Board of Trustees representing the 3 Classes in the province of Ontario, Canada, and the two Classes of Minnesota. The delegates are as follows: Rev. G. Andre for Classis Hamilton; Rev. H. Venema for Classis Chatham; Rev. R. Bos for Ontario East; Rev. R. Wezeman, Alternate for Classis Minnesota South, and Rev. S. Werkema as Alternate delegate for Classis Minnesota North.

6. Soon after adjournment of the Synod of 1952 Classis Ontario contacted us to plead for a special drive for funds for the Canadian Emergency Building Relief Fund. Due to an oversight the matter had not been brought to the attention of the Synod of 1952, and with the numerous requests for funds for new churches and parsonages in the Canadian field the need was deemed to be of a critical nature. Your committee instructed the Church Help Fund to initiate a drive for funds from all our churches and to allocate the funds according to provisions adopted by a previous Synod. The results of this special drive will appear in the report of the Church Help Fund.

7. Due to the devastating flood disaster which struck the Netherlands numerous appeals came to your committee to inaugurate a program of action to provide relief for the stricken area of the Netherlands and especially to assist those of the household of faith. To conduct a drive the secretary of your committee spent much time in communicating with various parts of our denomination to solicit special offerings within a given period of time, and the results were far beyond our fondest expectations. Our churches responded in a wonderful way. To effect a proper distribution of these gifts your committee appointed three of our ordained ministers now enrolled as students at the Free University of Amsterdam, nl. Rev. A. C. De Jong, Rev. Harry Boer, and Dr. James Daane, and in a position to contact committees of the various churches of Reformed persuasion conducting aid to stricken folk in the flooded area. This committee has performed a splendid piece of work for us, and we deem it necessary to request Synod to pass on to them a special word of thanks for their good service. This committee has notified us as to a proper distribution of funds so that justice could be done to all parties concerned. The following Reformed bodies were recipients according to the number of families in the stricken areas: Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, Christelyke Gereformeerde Kerk, Gereformeerde Kerk onderhoudende Art 31, and the National Rampenfonds. The last mentioned is not merely a government agency, but all relief committees of the Reformed churches in

Holland have representation on it to effect proper distribution of funds received through this channel.

R. J. DANHOF,  
Secretary of Synodical Committee

*B. Report of the Stated Clerk*

1. All standing and study committees appointed by the Synod of 1952 were notified soon after the adjournment of Synod. Also protestants were duly notified of the decisions of Synod in answer to their respective appeals.

2. I notified in accordance with the decision of Synod of 1952 the Rev. Van Baak to represent our Church at the General Assembly meeting of the Reformed Church of Japan. In a letter Rev. Van Baak details the important events of this assembly in Japan.

3. Rev. M. Ouwinga has sent in a report of the activities of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Assembly held in Denver, Colorado, and conveyed to this corresponding church our hearty greetings.

4. A great deal of correspondence with the Reformed Churches of Australia has been carried on. The small group of struggling Reformed churches in Australia is seriously handicapped by various custom regulations making it well nigh impossible for them to make purchases of our church publications, Sunday School materials, Catechism books, etc. In this matter we succeeded in locating publishers to donate much of this material free of charge.

5. The Senate Bill No. 2592 is still pending in Congress. This bill appertains to the effort to obtain clergy permit reduction in fares with various Air Lines.

6. Rev. B. H. Spalink has sent in his report as fraternal delegate to the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Dr. O. Holtrop as delegate to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

7. Rev. B. J. Danhof has filed credentials as fraternal delegate to our Synod from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; and Dr. P. J. Coetzee as fraternal delegate from our sister church in South Africa. We also expect Dr. Churchill to be present as fraternal delegate of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and Dr. Frank E. Allen as the fraternal delegate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Dr. Charles Vinsze as a fraternal delegate of the Free Magyar Reformed Church.

R. J. DANHOF, S. C.

**SUPPLEMENT NO. 48**  
(Art. 43)

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**REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL DELEGATE  
TO THE GENERAL SYNOD OF  
"DE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN NEDERLAND"  
HELD AT ROTTERDAM IN 1952**

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To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 10, 1953

Esteemed Brethren:

The undersigned, fraternal delegate to the Synod of "De Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland" takes pleasure in reporting the following.

The General Synod consisting of 52 delegates — four from each of their 13 particular Synods — convened in the Nieuwe Oosterkerk in Rotterdam on the 26th of August 1952. It was in session eleven weeks. Its president, the Rev. P. N. Kruyswijk, gave efficient and brilliant leadership.

In extending our fraternal greetings attention was called to our common interests, ideals, and ambitions. We gave an account of the extent and scope of the labors of our Church for and among the immigrants in Canada and urged the Netherlands Churches to give the emigrants, before they leave Holland's shores, adequate information concerning the Churches in the U.S.A. and Canada that are akin to theirs in faith and practice. Mention was also made of our expanding mission endeavors, the growth and development of our educational institutions, and our witness to the nation through the "Back to God Hour." To remove misunderstanding and prevent misinterpretation of Synod's actions in terminating the unexpired terms of Professors Harry Boer and George Stob and in not reappointing Drs. William Hendriksen and William Rutgers we assured them that doctrinal issues were not involved in those decisions.

In Synod's response to our greetings Dr. G. Berkhouwer voiced its admiration of the sacrificial services our Church renders the immigrants. Synod specifically requested that we convey its expression of sincere appreciation to our Church. In feeling language its spokesman assured us of its sympathetic interest in our endeavors to remain loyal to the Faith of the Fathers and to make an impact upon the religious life in America.

Synod received us most cordially. It extended the privilege of the floor and invited us to attend the meetings of the advisory committees. In matters of common interest they solicited our advice and took grateful cognizance of what our Church had done and contemplated doing.

Assuming that you have read the article published in The Banner of March 6, 1953 under "Synod of de Gereformeerde Kerken" I shall not weary you with a repetition of what it contained, but only note that the problems and issues that engaged their attention and called for synodical action are similar to ours. They considered, even as we intend to, such matters as Revision of the Form for the Lord's Supper, Introduction of more Hymns, a new rhythmic Version of the Psalms, Revision of the Church Order, Catechesis, and Ecumenicity. An interesting report on the Amusement Problem appeared on their agenda under the title, "De Vrije Tijdsbesteding."

The Executive Committee for Home Missions requested your delegate to meet with the "Christelijke Emigratie Centrale" and to confer with the local committees in the Netherlands on matters pertaining to Immigration.

In view of the fact that the Revs. John M. Van de Kieft and Peter J. Hoekstra, representing the Canadian Immigration Committee, arrived in the Netherlands on the day Synod convened, we considered ourselves relieved of that task. The missionary at large and the Rev. Peter J. Hoekstra, through close association with Immigration, were more conversant with the problems and hence better qualified to represent our Church at the meetings of the Emigration Committees.

The schism among "de Gereformeerden" remains a matter of great concern to all who make earnest prayer for Zion's peace. Synod endeavored to clarify and amplify the decisions of previous Synods and to correct what it considers to be an erroneous interpretation. With great patience it listened to each appellant. In the spirit of humility, with good will toward dissenting brethren, it sought to heal the breach and to facilitate their return to the fold. There are definite indications that its efforts are bearing fruit. Several ministers, elders, and even congregations have returned.

"De Deputaten Koopvaardij" requested our presence at a meeting held September 10, 1952. The occasion for this meeting was the unsatisfactory reply given by our Synod to a communication they addressed to our 1952 Synod. (Acts 1952, page 51)

The committee was disturbed by Synod's answer. It contends that the request was wholly misunderstood. The deputies consider the matter of sufficient importance to merit your reconsideration. They have asked that I acquaint you with their grievance and, with your consent and authorization, present their request anew to the proper advisory committee.

In our opinion "De Deputaten Koopvaardij" have reason to complain that Synod has not given adequate consideration to their request and that it is therefore deserving of reconsideration.

With appreciation for the honor of serving as a fraternal delegate, and with the prayer that the Lord may bless you abundantly, I am

Yours in the service of the King,

HENRY BAKER

## SUPPLEMENT NO. 49

(Art. 24)

## ADDRESS BY DR. P. J. COETZEE

Brother Praeses and Brethren:

It is indeed a moment of greatest significance for me that I may have the opportunity of standing before you as delegate of the Gereformeerde Kerk in South Africa. We had a long voyage which God, the Almighty, has made pleasant and prosperous. His guiding hand was not withheld from us for a single moment. The Lord was our Keeper Who "preserved our going out and our coming in." And now at last I have the privilege of greeting you on behalf of your sister church in far-away South Africa. Yes, we are really far from home, but we may declare as Jacob did: "Surely the Lord is in this place." In your midst we bring glory to Him Who has been the Lord of all His people throughout all generations wherever they may be found.

I must, however, admit that I present myself here with mixed feelings. Our last Synod in January, 1952, in fact elected the Rev. J. V. Coetzee as first delegate to attend this Synod of the Christian Reformed Church. Our church suffered a great loss when this very able minister, who was such a talented theologian and an experienced, staunch apologist for the principles of our faith, passed away on the 26th of December, 1952. Seeing that our church mourns over the passing away of this gifted man, and since I now attend this Synod as the secundus of the Rev. Coetzee, I consider it only becoming for me that I should on this occasion render homage to the memory of our deceased brother. I feel sure that he would have fulfilled this task with great ability, but we must now acquiesce in what has happened since the ways of God are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts, as the heavens are higher than the earth.

Where God has ordained it in this way that we are now privileged to be present here today, it is a most pleasant and elevating experience. We have heard of the great hospitality and friendliness of our brethren and sisters of the churches in the U.S.A. from the delegates of our church who attended previous Synods in Grand Rapids. It is no wonder that they all give the assurance that they would welcome the opportunity of visiting America once more. Now that my wife and I are privileged to be treated in the same most friendly way, we can testify without hesitation that our former delegates did not exaggerate. I cannot refrain from expressing our cordial appreciation of all the kindness that has been bestowed upon us.

It is remarkable that although your circumstances are in many respects different from ours, there is also a great degree of similarity. Fundamentally we have received the same calling, we are in the same world-arena as the militant church of Christ, our Lord. We are called upon to suffer "like things" as the apostle Paul puts it. We may rejoice in the common possession of one faith, and it is our mutual intention to take all possible measures to ensure that our churches continue to adhere to the highly tested principles of Calvinism for the perpetuation of that, for which so many martyrs gave their lives as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. In this world which is being acclimatized for the coming of the man of sin, and the revelation of the son of perdition, we stand for the sovereignty of God and the infallible authority of His Word over faith and life. The antichrist will be the one "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,

or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God," but the Wicked shall be revealed and consumed with the spirit of the Lord's mouth and shall be destroyed with the brightness of His coming." Therefore we shall exalt in Him, wherever in the world God has placed us to fulfill our calling. Together we have found rest in Him "Who has made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself." We know and are assured that in the dispensation of the fulness of time He shall gather together in one all things in Christ, and that in Him we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.

I consider that you are fully conscious of the fact that the Reformed faith has from the very beginning left an indelible impression upon the history of the Afrikaans nation. The small seed of Christian civilisation from the old mother country, the Netherlands, was planted in the fertile soil of the southern point of Africa by the almighty hand of God, the Creator, Who also rules the destinies of the nations of the earth. Our history commenced with the prayer of the founder of the nation, Jan van Riebeeck, who on the day when these founders of a new nation arrived at the Cape prayed that the true Reformed religion might be promulgated and that it might find expression in our history. He realised that the principles of the Reformation in the Calvinistic sense would always remain "conditio sine qua non" for spiritual growth. It is quite evident that God has heard the prayer of van Riebeeck. God has also answered the prayer of the founder in this sense that in the twentieth century the Gereformeerde Kerk in South Africa is still the historical link and embodiment of these very same principles that van Riebeeck professed. Our church is historically the linear descendant of the Gereformeerde Kerk of the Netherlands in the 17th Century. That was the Golden Age of Holland, also as far as the Reformed churches were concerned. We find the evidence for this assertion in the high lights of the Synod of Dordt (1618-1619).

While we are fully aware of the many shortcomings in our church-life, and realise the necessity of continual reformation, we cannot be thankful enough that the pure doctrine of the Gospel is still preached, that the pure administration of the sacraments as instituted by Christ is maintained, and that church discipline is exercised in the punishing of sin. We still embrace the same Reformed faith that came to South Africa three centuries ago, and we are determined that the wish of the Synod of Dordrecht (1618-1619) shall be actualized and fulfilled in our country as well: "dat men deze Gereformeerde leer onverminkt en ongeschonden zal overleveren aan de nakomelingschap tot op de wederkomst des Heeren."

In April, 1952, our nation celebrated its tercentenary. God has been "our dwelling place in all generations." The part that the Gereformeerde Kerk took in the festivities was to maintain that we are a people grown out of Calvinistic principles and that we can only endure and survive the crises of the times if we remain true to those principles. The menace of modern heathenism is great also in Africa, and we shall not be able to make a stand against this peril in any other way. It is only the realisation that we are a nation called by God to fulfil our destiny, that can give power and endurance to overcome our difficulties and solve our various problems. It is very remarkable that the two men, who, to my mind, are the greatest sons of our nation and both members of the Gereformeerde Kerk, have time and again stressed this point. I refer to President Paul Kruger and Prof. dr. J. D. du Toit (Totius).

I am extremely grateful that I can inform you that there are many indications of progress and growth in our church. A new very well-accommodated and equipped theological seminary and administrative building has been erected. In 1952 our Synod decided to appoint a fifth professor. The choice fell upon dr. B. J. de Klerk. In many respects Prof. de Klerk was a most promising acquisition at our Seminary. It is therefore with sorrow that I mention that our gifted brother was permitted to work at our Seminary for only a year. His death occurred on the 21st of April, 1953. A successor has not yet been appointed.

We still have a large number of vacant congregations. A hopeful sign is that more young men than ever before have in recent years come to our University for propaedeutical studies and will eventually qualify at our Seminary. We are deeply impressed by the thorough education given by our professors and by the exemplary way in which they devote themselves to their responsible task. I must also mention that Prof. dr. J. H. Bavinck of the Free University at Amsterdam is lecturing at our Seminary and at the University of Potchefstroom for Christian Higher Education for a year. We have no doubt that the stay of Prof. Bavinck with us will have a stimulating effect upon our missionary work, which has recently made considerable headway. The work of planting and watering is being done, and we thank God for the increase. This also applies to the work of evangelisation.

In the meantime important progress has been made in another direction. Our University at Potchefstroom which grew out of our Seminary was given by law of Parliament full independent status. South Africa has consequently also come to have its own Free University on a genuine Calvinistic basis. It will now be the responsibility and privilege of the members of the Gereformeerde Kerk in the first instance to do our part in safeguarding the character of this institution and to see that the influence of this stronghold of Calvinism in the southern hemisphere is still further extended.

The first honorary degree (doctor divinitatis honoris causa) conferred by our University after becoming independent, was awarded to our esteemed and beloved Professor, dr. J. D. du Toit—the man who has been such an exceptional gift from God to our church and to the whole nation. Professor du Toit is the Chancellor of our Free University. We are glad that the Rector Magnificus of our University, namely the well known and widely respected Prof. J. C. van Rooy, has been awarded the degree of doctor honoris causa by the Free University at Amsterdam.

There have been many other commmorable features of our church activities during the past few years, but I am keeping you too long. Allow me just to tell you that a fulltime editor in the person of the Rev. D. G. Venter has been appointed for our church organ, "Die Kerkblad," which it is purposed to convert into a weekly publication in July, 1953. It is our ideal that every family should subscribe to it.

In 1959 we hope to celebrate the centennial of our church. We will indeed be thankful if you could find it possible to be represented at that for us such a memorable occasion.

I may not, esteemed praeses and brethren, take up more of the precious time of the Synod. Still I cannot conclude without assuring you of our warmest love and interest in the activities of our sister church. It is also a consolation and encouragement to know that the small number of reformed believers in the far south of Dark Africa do not stand alone, but that we are bound together by the invisible ties of brotherly love in Christ. In the unity of the true faith we are members of Christ and partakers of Him and all His treasures and gifts. We are privileged to pray for one another.



The churches of the reformed faith do not have at their disposal the great numbers in a world of mass movements, but may the words of Jesus to the church of Sardis still be applicable to us: "for thou hast a little strength, and has kept my word, and hast not denied my name." In a sense God does not count but He weighs. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Let us not despise the day of small things.

It is our wish that your church in America should remain a bulwark for the Christian truth. I want to "exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." We undoubtedly live in times which threaten the doctrines of the Reformation. Rome is on the march, and the powers of unbelief and revolution do not slumber. We should realise that a compromise between modern paganism in its various forms and the Christian belief is a greater danger than naked paganism.

We are, however, assured that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church. Let me remind you that in the fourth century it also seemed as if Christianity would be swamped and that paganism would survive. Many were dismayed and desperate, but then Augustine pointed out in his "Civitas Dei" that the church of God shall not be moved because God is at its right hand. This was indeed a prophetic clarion. The church suffered no downfall. It often seemed as if the church would go to rack and ruin, but God does not forsake the works of His own hands.

I have had the opportunity of reading the Acts of your most recent Synods. One can only have the highest appreciation for the work that is being done to extend the kingdom of God. It is obvious that you have also had your crises and difficulties, you have had weighty problems to solve. But we must expect these things. After all it is a church that has a struggle on earth, "*ecclesia militans*." Voetius, however, used the words that how black and threatening the clouds may appear, they will pass by. Whatever the day of tomorrow may have in store for us, one thing we know and that is that the God of the covenant will also be there. Whatever may be unstable and uncertain, there is nothing uncertain about the grace of our God. He shall not deliver the soul of His turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked. Also in the world of our time, we can adopt the motto: "*Saevius tranquillus in undis*."

Our church is truly thankful for all that is being achieved by the Christian Reformed Church. The visit of dr. R. J. Danhof as well as the reports of our former delegates to the U.S.A. have to a great extent brought your church nearer to us. The activities of your church prove the fact that the reformed doctrine does not quell or suppress initiative and perseverance, it does not produce people who rest in idleness, or—to speak in the language of our beloved H. Catechism—this doctrine "does not make men careless and profane."

The scope of your missionary work has made a strong impression upon me. The question arises whether an even stronger testimony should not be given by all the Reformed churches. I fear that in more than one respect we stand against the world around us in its despair, in the dark, stormy night of bewilderment and disillusionment, as Jonah did when he "rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord." There was "a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken." Then the heathen mariners were afraid, and "cried every man unto his god." But what did Jonah do while these people in the darkness of the night and in the disconsolateness of heathenism were in despair? We read: "But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep."

This prophet had received a calling from God, he had to deliver the Christian message, but he slept. Yes, they did not even know who he was. They had to ask him: "What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people are thou?"

Must we not admit that we are equally drowsy and languid in our infidelity, "fleeing from the presence of the Lord?" This to a large extent characterises the so-called Christian Western Civilisation of our time. Consequently we appear as strangers to the heathen world, they hardly know who we are. In the meantime God has given us His Word for centuries past with the injunction: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . . ."

We have a great calling in the modern world. Calvinism is the truly *catholic* religion and its effects must inevitably extend to every department of life. We must put on "the whole armour of God." May God, "my beloved brethren, make ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." May he give you the power to proclaim and defend the principles of our common Calvinistic heritage in this country which today is so predominant in world affairs. History reveals to us that Calvinism has always given new life and energy to nations. May the Christian Reformed Church make its contribution time and again so that your nation may be reanimated with the spirit of Calvinism. A stable world order cannot be built on dollars only nor in the concentration camps of Siberia. It must be built on the principles of the word of God.

We pray that the blessing of God may rest upon your labours in His name. May He give you faith and hope, but also "charity that never faileth." It is the love of Christ that constraineth us, and this makes us in all these things "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." The words of Calvin must resound in our labours: "amanti nihil arduum." May God in His mercy be with the Gereformeerde Kerk in South Africa and with the Christian Reformed Church in the U.S.A. and with all the Reformed churches in other parts of the world "ut gloria Dei per nos illustretur." (Calvin).

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## OVERTURES

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### 1. *Jurisdiction of Paterson Hebrew Mission.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod that the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present. *Grounds:*

1. The two Classes meet at different times.
2. One Classis meets three times per year, while the other Classis meets only twice per year.
3. Sometimes there is a lapse of two months or more between the meetings of the two Classes to which the same matters are submitted for approval. Because of this, the possibility exists that one Classis approves of a matter, and that, after two or more months the other Classis does not approve of the same matter. This creates an awkward situation for the Board.
4. Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis, a much closer and direct co-operation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency for this Kingdom work.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

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### 2. *Jurisdiction of Christian Seamen's Home.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod to have the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrants' Home placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis, rather than two. *Ground:*

1. The home can be more efficiently operated by one Classis.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

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### 3. *Centennial Celebration in 1957.*

Classis Zeeland overtures Synod to arrange for the proper observance of the centennial of the Christian Reformed Church in 1957.

Rev. H. Kooistra, S.C.

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### 4. *Centennial Anniversary.*

Classis Grand Rapids East overtures Synod to appoint a committee to make the necessary preparations for the proper celebration of our One Hundredth Anniversary as a denomination in 1957.

Rev. M. H. Faber, S.C.

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### 5. *Mileage Remuneration for Canadian Ministers.*

Classis Eastern Ontario requests Synod to instruct the General Home Missions Committee that ministers of churches in Canada, which receive support from the Fund for Needy Churches, shall receive six cents per mile for all travel in their field of labor. *Ground:*

1. It costs far more to buy and operate a car in Canada than in the United States.

Rev. C. Witt, S.C.

**6.** *Refund of Moving Expenses.*

Classis Sioux Center overtures Synod to interpret its own rule found in Schaver's, Polity of the Churches, Vol. II, page 94 regarding refund of moving expenses.

Rev. B. Bruxvoort, S.C.

**7.** *Suspension of Church publications.*

Classis Sioux Center concurs in the protest of the Consistory of the Hull, Iowa Christian Reformed Church, which reads as follows, "The consistory protest against the suspension of the publication of the *Banner* and the *Watcher* for two weeks during the summer months. *Grounds:*

1. These papers occupy a very important place in the reading program of the families of our church.
2. By suspension of publication for two weeks families are deprived of vital church news and information to keep them posted on the up-to-date developments in our denominational life.
3. Secular publications such as newspapers and magazines arrange to have an uninterrupted publication schedule." Classis decides to add a 4th ground, namely:
4. In view of the decreasing religious interests during summer months, these religious publications ought not to be discontinued for two weeks during such a critical time."

Classis Sioux Center  
Rev. B. Bruxvoort, S.C.

**8.** *Dutch Version of Bible in Public Worship.*

Classis petitions the Synod of 1953 to recommend for the use of public worship in the Holland language the "Bijbel in de Nieuwe Vertaling" (1951) upon the following grounds:

1. The 1952 Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands has unanimously recommended this version.
2. It has been accomplished with the aid of much labor by Prof. Grosheide, Prof. Aalders, Prof. Gispén and other leaders in De Gereformeerde Kerken.
3. As the number of churches making use of the Netherlands tongue is increasing in Canada it is desirable that one Bible version be used as much as possible.
4. It is desirable that our Synod should express itself on this matter, as it has also recommended the American Revised Version for public worship in 1926.

Rev. E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

**9.** *Tenure Of Appointments.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod to change the term of office of all permanent committees or offices whether elected directly by Synod or through the Classes, to three years instead of the present variation of two, three and four years. *Grounds:*

1. This will create uniformity in the term of office for all functionaries.
2. At a recent Synod the term of office was set at three years for all committee members serving on permanent committees elected directly by Synod.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

**10.** *Tenure of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary.*

Classis Chicago North overtures Synod that the term of office for members of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary be changed from four years to three years, to bring it in line with Synod's rule that no one shall serve more than six years in succession.

Rev. H. J. Triezenberg, S.C.

**11.** *Praeparatoir Examinations of Seminary Graduates.*

Classis Hamilton overtures the Synod to transfer the work of examining our Calvin Seminary graduates (who desire to become Candidates for the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in our Christian Reformed Church) to the ministerial members of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary; this to begin in the Spring of 1954; this work from then on to be subject to the approval of each following Synod. *Grounds:*

1. The Board of Trustees has known the Seminary Students for several years and is therefore better qualified for this work.
2. In the last few years Synod has had too heavy a program to take care of this important work in a satisfactory manner.
3. Curatorium has done this work before; and, (1) has done it well, (2) can devote sufficient time to it.

Rev. E. Kooistra, S.C.

**12.** *New Revised Standard Bible Version.*

Classis Hamilton overtures Synod to express itself on the new translation of the Bible recently published, and known as the New Revised Standard Version. *Grounds:*

1. Even though there is much improvement and many favorable things that could be said about this new version, nevertheless there is very serious and objectionable reason for this expression of disapproval.
2. In case the Synod should grant this request to disapprove of this new version, Classis requests Synod make provision to make its own translation in co-operation with other Denominations.

Rev. E. Kooistra, S.C.

**13.** *Pronouncement on Revised Standard Version.*

Classis Muskegon overtures Synod to make some pronouncement regarding the use of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. *Grounds:*

1. This R.S.V. was officially authorized by the National Council of Churches.
2. This R.S.V. has been severely criticized by conservative scholars, e.g. Dr. Oswald T. Allis.
3. Synod has made pronouncement with respect to another version when in 1926 it decided "to recommend the American Standard Version to our churches." Cf. Acts 1926, Art. 44, p. 46; Acts 1934, Art. 105, p. 103.
4. The American Bible Society, supported by our churches also, proposes to use this R.S.V. in the printing of its Bibles.

Rev. I. D. Couwenhoven, S.C.

**14.** *Nominee for Seminary Chair.*

Classis Alberta proposes the name of Rev. Jan Karel Van Baalen as nominee for the chair of Dogmatics to the Board of Trustees and to Synod.

Rev. E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

**15.** *Transfer to Another Classis.*

Classis Minnesota South approved the request of the Consistory of Saskatoon, Sask. Canada, and submits it for Synod's approval:

"The Consistory of Saskatoon requests the consent of Classis Minnesota South for the church at Saskatoon to be affiliated with the Classis Alberta, for the following reasons:

1. It is very difficult for us to send delegates to Classis Minnesota South because of the great distance and because of the difficulty in securing permits for crossing the border;
2. We are situated closer to Classis Alberta, which would make travel expenses appreciably less."

P. Van Tuinen, S.C.

**16.** *Statement of Philosophy of Education.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to instruct the Board and Faculty of Calvin College and Seminary, that a definitive statement of the philosophy of education of Calvin College be prepared and printed in the Agenda of Synod at a *stated time* within the very near future. *Grounds:*

- a. The Church should be informed of the educational philosophy in our school as soon as possible.
- b. The Synod did not set a time when the Board and Faculty's statement should be made public.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

**17.** *Nominations for the Seminary.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to declare that nominations for a chair in our Seminary made from the floor of Synod, shall not be considered for a definite appointment at that Synod. *Grounds:*

- a. This is in accordance with the policy that names of nominees shall be made public sometime before Synod for consideration by the church.
- b. Hasty and immature appointments may have undesirable results.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

**18.** *Appointments to the Seminary.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to revise the system of appointment to the chairs of the Seminary:

- A. Appointees to the chairs in our Seminary shall serve as instructors without faculty status for a minimum of three years, and a maximum of five years before such appointees are granted full professorships; and that this rule shall not apply to those men from other Reformed Theological Seminaries, whose stature as professors in their fields is fully established. *Grounds:*

- a. This will tend to prevent hasty filling of the vacancies we now suffer.

- b. This will give the church adequate time to satisfy itself regarding the qualities of an appointee.
  - c. It will tend to further the much needed development of a thoroughly respectable theological faculty which has the unquestioned confidence of the whole denomination.
- B.** When the chairs shall be filled, there shall be instituted a system of instructorships for each chair in the Seminary. The duties of such instructors shall be to labor under the professor in a given field. When the instructor has done satisfactory work for a period of three to five years he may become eligible for appointment as assistant professor in the field on an inactive or active basis thus making room for another instructor. *Grounds:*
- a. This will provide for a constant search for, and development of professor material for our church.
  - b. This will provide adequate time for thorough teaching and guidance of prospective ministers since it is quite beyond the capacity of any single professor to do justice to the linguistic, exegetical, critical, comparative and practical aspects of his field, especially in such fields as Old and New Testament, Dogmatics and Apologetics.
  - c. This will provide more time for each professor to develop his peculiar field and reduce the validity of excuse for non-productivity of scholarly literature.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

**19.** *Back to God Hour Radio.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to define the purpose of our Reformed witness on the Back to God Hour Program and to determine the relationship of the work of the Radio Committee to that of Home Missions and Church Extension. *Grounds:*

- a. The present possibilities of further expansion into television makes imperative such definitive action.
- b. There is already an overlapping of activity in connection with the work of our minister of Radio Evangelism.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

**20.** *Re Decision of the 1952 Synod.*

Classis Ostfriesland desires to take exception to the decision of the 1952 Synod, see Acts 1952, Art. 93, page 40, 2c, "Synod sustains . . .", in which Synod declared the overtures of Classis California and Classis Ostfriesland out of order. We therefore overture Synod to declare that the 1952 Synod was itself out of order when it declared the overtures of Classis California and Classis Ostfriesland out of order. *Grounds:*

- 1. Synod confused an overture with a motion.
- 2. The rules regulating a Synod cannot be made to apply to a Classis bringing an overture before Synod.

K. Tebben, S.C.

**21.** *Decision of 1951 Synod re N. A. E.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to declare that the Synod of 1951 was wrong, in the main, when it tabled the report of its advisory committee, see Acts 1951, Art. 147, p. 78, C1. In the abstract, Synod had the



right to table the advice of the committee reporting at the time. However, in so far as this report involved and included the report of a study committee the Synod was not justified in tabling, by inference, the report of this committee, and leave it there. It is the more to be regretted when we remember that previous Synods had (1) confessed their inability to come to any decision on the NAE matter until a thorough study of the principles of ecumenicity had been presented, and (2) warned future Synods not to attempt any decision with regard to our affiliation except in the light of those principles. We therefore also overture the 1953 Synod to take up this report for proper consideration. *Grounds:*

1. It is wholly unwarranted to ignore a report drawn up by a committee on mandate of a previous Synod, and
2. It is unjustifiable to table indefinitely by inference.

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to furnish carefully formulated grounds to be printed in the Acts of Synod, for our decision of 1951, see Acts 1951, Art. 151, p. 79, "after lengthy discussion . . .", if such decision can be sustained in the light of the foregoing study. *Grounds:*

1. The action, seemingly unsupported, has given rise to misunderstanding and unrest in the church. The two overtures presented to the Synod of 1952, see Acts of Synod 1952, page 521, Overture 12, and page 525, Overture 20, are an evidence of such disquiet.
2. We owe this indication of respect to the NAE.

K. Tebben, S.C.

## 22. *Report of the Board of Trustees in Agenda.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to remind the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary, that its recommendations must, if at all possible, be included in the Agenda. If matters cannot be prepared at the February meeting, but must be sent to Synod from the May meeting, such matters must be accompanied by the reasons for this.

*Grounds:*

1. This decision of Synod (Acts 1946, p. 3) is accompanied by valid and cogent reasons, as valid today as when adopted, matters of Calvin are just as vital and important to the church as matters from other boards.
2. A comparative study of the Agenda and Acts of recent years shows an alarming trend. The Board submits fewer and fewer of its recommendations through the Agenda, more and more in a final report which the Synodical delegates do not get to see until they are at Synod, and the churches do not get to see until the Synod has acted on them.
3. Room for emergency recommendations must be allowed. But then the Board should realize it is incumbent on itself to prove the emergency nature of these recommendations.

K. Tebben, S.C.

## 23. *Separation of Calvin College from Church Control.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to take steps towards separating Calvin College and Seminary, in order that the College may be turned over to a parental society, established just for that purpose.

*Grounds:*

1. It has been admitted that running a college was not the business of the church. The church might do it, but not as a matter of principle, simply as a matter of expedience.
2. The line of expedience which has determined our policy hitherto is once again leading us into serious complications. A number of years ago we had to drop the Preparatory Department because of the rise of Christian High Schools in our midst. Now we face the awkward situation of seeing Junior Colleges trying to rise, but our tie-up, as church, to Calvin College jeopardizes this natural and proper development of our school system.
3. Church control is increasingly placing the college at an unfair advantage over our local day schools and high schools. Synodical quotas, synodical drives constitute most unfair competition with local effort.
4. Parental societies, both on the grade and high school level, have shown sufficient ability and permanence to be entrusted with the control of the college. Development on such a voluntary basis will undoubtedly prove much better to the whole Christian School system, and gain much wider favor with our people.
5. The church, as church officially, should and could continue some support and control for the sake of those preparing for the gospel ministry.

K. Tebben, S.C.

## 24. *Indefinite Appointments of Professors.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to rule that before a professor of our Calvin College be given an appointment of indefinite tenure he shall submit to an examination before Synod to satisfy the Church that he is sufficiently orientated in the Reformed truth to fill a position of such strategic importance. *Grounds:*

1. This is a denominational institution of learning and it is fitting that each and every professor give evidence of adequate knowledge of the doctrines of this church and their implications for his field.
2. Such orientation is essential and proper for the interpretation of instruction in a school of this kind.
3. Since Synod in its constitution of Calvin College and Seminary (Art. 4) and in the rules for the Board (Art. 2) repeatedly states the demand for instruction to be in harmony with our doctrinal standards, it would appear equally urgent that Synod should assure itself that those who are to teach permanently should give full satisfaction on this score.

Raymond H. Haan, S.C.

## 25. *Neutral Labor Unions.*

### I. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION:

At the January 1952 meeting of Classis Ontario, the Consistory of Sarnia asked advice how Consistories were to deal with those who had affiliated with the so-called "neutral labor unions". In the interest of a satisfactory answer, a study committee was appointed; this committee reported at the May 1952 meeting of Classis Ontario, but this report was re-com-

mitted for further study and elaboration, especially in reference to Scriptural defense of the advice given.

This committee, in deference to what Classis expected of them, returned to Classis Ontario with a studied and Scripturally-serious report. Finally, after division of Classis Ontario into three Classes, after Classis Chatham, among them, had offered ample opportunity to its consistories for consideration of, and comment about, this report and its advice, at its January 1953 meeting, adopted its materials with minor alterations, and decided to submit them to our June, 1953 Synod for their adoption. Thus, with humility, we offer a report and advice, in that order.

## II. REPORT PROPER:

At the outset, two remarks are in order: First, this report makes no mark unless we accept the stand which our advice offers, that membership in the neutral labor union is something objectionable. Secondly, since our concern here is to establish the kind of attitude a Christian, who would follow God's Word and who has a Calvinistic world and life view, must take over against these so-called neutral labor unions, we raise and answer four questions which necessarily follow in attaining our goal. They are, and we pursue them in that order: "What is a Christian? What is the task of a Christian? What is the nature and purpose of a so-called neutral labor union? What attitude should a Christian take over against such organizations?"

### 1. *What is a Christian?*

In connection with the question "Who and what is a Christian?", obviously all Christianity is not agreed as to its answer. There is the Anabaptist; he considers it the Christian's calling to withdraw himself from the world; he allows for a great deal of life as having nothing to do with the service of the Lord. Again, there is the Arminian who also believes that much of life is neutral and composed of portions where the rule of the Lord does not penetrate; thus, for an Arminian also, there is the belief that in many things in the world, he need not reckon with Christ. But, conversely, the Reformed Christian who confesses the creeds of Calvinism, believes that always he must live out of the principle of regeneration; that, with body and soul, he belongs to Christ; that there is nothing of his life in the world which lies exclusive of the lordship of Christ. Thus, even in social life the Reformed Christian acknowledges the ruling rights of his Lord.

This Reformed world and life view is based on God's Word. Paul says in I Cor. 6:20, "for ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body . . ." Peter calls the Christian one "redeemed through the precious blood of Christ." Thus the believer belongs to the regiment of his Redeemer-King. In Eph. 2:10 it is written: "for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Further, the apostle of the heathen says that Christians are "elect . . . so that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love" (Eph. 1:4). Yes, the Christian doesn't even belong to himself; Paul says: "Know ye not . . . that ye are not of yourselves?" (I Cor. 6:19); therefore this same apostle, in Rom. 14:8, also says: "Whether we live, or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

It must be clear from all these texts that the Christian cannot and may not ever speak of neutrality. A Biblical or Calvinistic Christian is never neutral; he is a servant of the Lord, one purchased through the precious

blood of Christ; he is one regenerated through the Spirit of the Lord, a renewed person; he is inseparably allied with his Lord, without Whom he can do nothing; he must show this always and everywhere, in his walk and work. His relation to Christ must always decide his other relations in life. Since the honor and the demands of God are at stake, neutrality for the Christian is always improper. His Lord taught him to pray: "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."

## 2. *What is the task of the Christian?*

From the foregoing it naturally follows that the Christian has a definite task in this world. Since he belongs to Him Who said: "all power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), therefore, always and everywhere, he must "show forth the praises of Him who called him out of darkness into His marvelous light." Neither did the Lord Who purchased His people neglect to inform them about the task He had committed to them; no, His Word is very clear about this: "Ye are the salt of the earth; . . . ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16). Christians may not hide their Christianity, but they must let their light shine before men, "so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Therefore, everywhere, where a Christian is, there is to be evidence of the principle of new life; there is to be display of a clear light in the middle of a dark world.

In this connection, again, it is of the utmost importance that we understand the task of the Christian to be applicable to every part of life. Dr. A. Kuyper said: "The members of the body of Christ must, in a spiritual sense, conquer the whole world for Him. All the treasures which God has created in our human race must be sanctified in the name of Christ. Not a single power of the original creation may be ruined or put to naught. Therefore the Kingship of God's only begotten Son cannot but be a kingship over the whole kingdom of humanity in the full sense of the word" (*Pro Rege*, I, 322, 323, 332). Never may the power of Christ be limited to mere spiritual spheres.

In the execution of his task, the Christian is ever reminded of God that he may never attempt to loose himself from Him, to whom he belongs, and Whom he must serve and glorify in everything. Thus, also in his relationships in society and community, the Christian may never seek to sever himself from Christ, his Lord and King; rather, in every sphere, the Christian ought to be busy as a servant "of Christ, doing the will of God" (Eph. 6:5-9).

Christian laborers, therefore, also have their first obligation to Christ. In Titus 2:9, 10, Paul warns servants that they be subject to their own lords so "that they adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." Peter enjoins servants that in the midst of their difficult service, they look to Christ, "because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." Everyone, whether he be servant or lord, man or woman, parent or child, must count and exercise himself according to the words: "ye are Christ's," and "ye are servants of Christ" (Rom. 14:8; Col. 3:22). God's Word is still God's Word today as well as nineteen hundred years ago.

It may be, that such faithfulness to Christ will incur conflict with the world. Yes, let us remember that this conflict is not merely a struggle among mere men. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness

of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). That conflict continues today. Thus, in the midst of the many relations of life, there remains that spiritual Christian strife, even in social spheres. Never may a Christian give up that struggle so that he may take a so-called neutral standpoint. Kuyper once said significantly: "In social mingling there are many hidden dangers for a Christian. We easily slip by permitting society to set our standards in her worldly forms. But that which society permits, a Christian may not permit. The danger is then that the Christian tides down an irresistible stream. And, unconsciously, thus, the Christian exchanges his Christian principles for the impure principles of worldly society" (*Pro Rege*, III, 289).

Thus, involved in a Christian's task, is the determination of all secondary relationships according to, and in the light of the primary relation to Christ. There can be no fellowship, no agreement, no joining together of two camps of which the one acknowledges and confesses God, while the other ignores and eliminates Him, or even often denies Him. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness,? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:14-18).

The Christian then, who is called to live out of the principle of regeneration, is also in possession of a clear mandate concerning his position in the world. He cannot, and may not, renounce or neglect his principle for the sake of those who live out of another principle, namely, to strive after a so-called general righteousness. It is true, God's Word is no law book, consisting of precept upon precept; yet it clearly shows out of which principle God's people must live. The Christian must always be a salting salt, a lighting light, a witnessing witness, a serving servant, a willing possession of Christ, a pure temple of the Holy Spirit. Here all neutrality is excluded. Every relationship of this life is governed by primary relationship to Christ. And, that relationship to Christ covers, not only part of the Christian's life, as the Anabaptists say, but according to our Reformed confessions, all of life, with all its variegations and spheres. Neutrality in social life, in which rules and principles are laid down, then, is once for all impossible for the Calvinist; he desires to live according to God's Word.

### 3. *What is the nature and purpose of the so-called neutral labor union?*

The so-called neutral labor union, as far as its nature is concerned, is an association which seeks to unite laborers in an organization without raising questions as to doctrine or confession. Therefore, the so-called neutral labor union operates under a constitution which does not reckon with Christ and His Word. It is an organization which claims to be neutral, and through its neutrality, it seeks to attain its goals and practices, not first of all as determined by the demands of God's Word, but as decided by the desires and will of the majority of its members.

The chief purpose of the so-called neutral labor union is merely: to promote the material welfare of its members. Further, in its attempt to attain its goals, it is led by the principles of humanism, and uses only such means as the majority of its members decide. Therefore, when we evaluate the means by which such neutral labor unions uses to gain their goal in the light of the standards of the Word of God and Christian principles based on that Word, we must often condemn them.

These, for instance, are some of the condemn-worthy means employed by the so-called neutral labor unions:

1. The advocacy of the so-called "union shop" or "closed shop", without acknowledgment of the convictions of those who conscientiously cannot join their organization.

2. The use of "jurisdictional strikes" and "boycotts" by which laborers are compelled to join a certain labor union, or by which the employers are compelled to close a contract with that labor union, even though that labor union has no right to make such demands.

3. The acquisition of their ends through means which sometimes endanger public welfare, and frequently set aside governmentally instituted bureaus for the settlement of disputes between employer and employee.

4. The misuse of the Sabbath in that especially that day is used for labor union gatherings (local, sectional, national); and the protection of Sunday labor if it involves extra pay.

4. *What attitude should a Christian adopt over against such so-called neutral labor unions?*

Having been quite explicit in regard to the Christian and his task, and, concerning the nature and purpose of the so-called neutral labor union, we need not elaborate widely in regard to the attitude which the Christian should have over against such an organization. Our judgment or opinion must already be evident.

The governing principle here is this: The Christian, because of his relation to Christ, his King, can never be neutral. In all relationships of life he must be faithful to Him, to whom he belongs, both with body and soul. Consonant with this basic principle, we draw the following conclusions:

1. Christians may work with non-Christians in the promotion of such goals which agree with the law of the Lord; but they may do so only when such cooperation does not damage or violate their relation to Christ as Lord and King, and thus actually makes their Christian testimony in word or deed, impossible.

2. Therefore, for a Christian, there is no place in an organization (such as a neutral labor union), which gives abundant evidence in its constitution and practice that it is in conflict with the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures.

3. Christians, therefore, because they are obligated to give joint witness to the principles of God's Word, should form such organizations (labor unions) which acknowledge the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures.

### III. ADVICE (OR RESOLUTIONS):

1. For the Christian who would live "principally" ("princiepel" in the Holland language) according to the principles of God's Word, there is no place in a labor union which gives clear evidence that it is in conflict with

the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures, such as "The American Federation of Labor" and "The Congress of Industrial Organization".

2. All laborers are urged to join a Christian labor organization (such as the Christian Labor Association) wherever possible; and to make attempts to organize locals of the existing Christian Labor Association where they do not yet exist.

3. The Consistories shall see to it that, in the proclamation of the Word the scriptural principles relevant to social and communal life shall be expounded; and that our ministry warn against the weakening of the Christian's influence in social spheres in the adoption of a so-called neutral standpoint.

4. The Consistories, by means of personal contact (such as, in home-visiting and in other pastoral work), shall instruct those who plan to join or those who have joined the so-called neutral labor unions, with patience and love and warn them concerning their error; thus, they shall teach them the content of the stand of our church in connection with these labor unions.

5. In instances where certain deeds, in connection with membership in a so-called neutral labor union, appear to be plain transgressions of one of the commandments of God, ecclesiastical censure shall be applied.

6. The Consistories shall see to it that those who persist in their membership in that sort of labor union shall not be considered for leading positions in congregational life.

7. That members of the congregation shall be prevailed upon to join the existing Christian Labor Unions, or to organize such if they do not yet exist; and that the Consistories shall support such unions in all possible ways.

Classis Chatham urges Synod to adopt these instructions as its own.

Humbly submitted,

Jacob Hoogland, S.C.

## 26. *Nominations for Seminary Chairs.*

The Consistory of the Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church having given consideration to the matter of appointments to be made for Professors in our Seminary proposes the following names for the respective departments:

1. For the New Testament Department, it proposes the name of Dr. W. Hendriksen. As far as the Consistory knows there is no other man in our denomination so well qualified for this field. It is a known fact that Dr. Hendriksen is an excellent linguist. We do not believe there is another man in our denomination who has such a mastery of the Greek, Syrian, Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin language as he possesses. Moreover, he reads the Dutch, German, and French with ease and facility. He has taught the N. T. field for nine years at our Seminary and is judged by all those who are conversant with the N. T. field to be thoroughly at home in this technical department of theology. An examination of his academic record for the four years at our Seminary reveals the very highest standard, in fact we doubt whether there is any minister in our denomination with a comparable academic record. Barring a few rare exceptions, he is one man who has produced written material in his field and is still producing. His books have been judged to be scholarly and have been widely received within and without our denomination. His written works, his sermons,

and many popular lectures demonstrate that he is thoroughly, enthusiastically and progressively Reformed; the emphasis in his works is consistently Reformed. During the nine years at our Seminary he has built up several carefully prepared graduate courses and the records will reveal that these were some of the most popular and most asked-for P. G. courses in our Seminary. More ministers in our denomination and of other denominations have taken these courses than those offered in any other department in our Seminary. The records will reveal, moreover, that there is scarcely a semester during those nine years that some students and ministers did not avail themselves of these P. G. courses offered by Dr. Hendriksen. Barring rare exceptions, all those taking these courses spoke enthusiastically about them. With such a man available the Consistory feels that it is irresponsible to farm out the important N. T. department to a few visiting lecturers, who at best would be on our campus for a very short time. The Consistory is convinced that Dr. Hendriksen has the confidence of our people as being a man thoroughly and whole-heartedly committed to the Reformed faith, and consequently for these several reasons mentioned above strongly urge his appointment as professor of the New Testament.

2. For the Chair of Practical Theology it proposes the name of Dr. L. Greenway. Dr. Greenway has had several years of teaching experience. He is known to be an excellent pulpiteer; a man of great industry, and a man with genuine love for the Reformed faith. He is an accomplished musician, and his knowledge and appreciation of church music would be of much benefit in the department of Practical Theology. The large congregation he now serves would testify to his wise leadership and sanctified counsel in the many practical problems the minister meets with in the active ministry.

3. For the Chair of Dogmatics it proposes the name of Dr. W. H. Rutgers. Dr. Rutgers taught systematic theology at our Seminary for eight years. Not once during these eight years has the Board of Curators offered an official word of criticism relative to the method of teaching or of the material presented. The Investigating Committee appointed to study the Seminary Situation upon examination of his class lectures judged that these class notes gave evidence of much hard labor, that the material was well organized and that it was thoroughly, enthusiastically and consistently Reformed. The Consistory is not aware of any complaint registered during those eight years as to the Reformed character, emphasis and consistent Reformed thrust of his teaching. His pulpit work reveals a warm, passionate zeal for the Reformed faith. Both Dr. Volbeda, the president of the Seminary, and Prof. L. Berkhof, who occupied the chair of Systematic theology at our Seminary for many years, urged his reappointment at the Synod of 1952. The consistory is convinced that Dr. Rutgers has the confidence of our people.

4. For the Chair of Missions the consistory proposes the name of Rev. H. Evenhouse. The Consistory believes that the Rev. H. Evenhouse possesses the gifts and character which would eminently qualify him for that department. As president of the Mission Board for some years he distinguished himself by giving wise, understanding and appreciative leadership. The Mission Board saw fit to send him on several inspection tours of various mission fields. He has a wide acquaintance with the fields and with the problems involved and has proven himself to be deeply interested



in Missions. His love for the Reformed faith is beyond question. With our rapidly expanding missionary endeavors the consistory is convinced that an appointment for this chair should be made without delay. The consistory is convinced that barring exceptions, it is highly preferable that an appointment for this chair, as well as for any other chair in our Seminary, that the appointees be men who have for some years served in the active ministry.

May our God richly supply you with wisdom in all your deliberations.

Done in Consistory,

C. Van't Riet, Clerk  
Adrian Spee, Vice-President

## 27. *Nominations for Seminary Chairs.*

Dear Brethren in Christ:

The consistory of the Byron Center Christian Reformed Church, having examined the 1952-1953 Calvin Seminary Catalogue and having compared it with the catalogue of the preceding year, calls your attention to the following facts:

- a. That there is an alarming decrease in the number of courses described in several of the departments;
- b. That, except in the Old Testament Department, opportunity for graduate study at our school has been virtually wiped out; ever so many courses that had been carefully prepared over the course of many years having been completely cancelled;
- c. That for the very strategic Dogmatics Department no full-time professor has been provided, its courses having been distributed among three men on a part-time basis as a kind of side-line to their regular work;
- d. That even for a temporary term no ordained man with desirable pastoral experience has been provided for the Department of Apologetics and Ethics;
- e. That the chair of Practical Theology will soon be vacant;
- f. That the Department of Missions has been virtually obliterated, one solitary course remaining, and this one taught by a professor of another department.

The consistory, having taken note of this *deplorable situation* that has existed in our Seminary since the rash decisions of the Synod of 1952, proposes that the following remedial measures be taken;

1. For the Department of Dogmatics the consistory proposes the appointment of Dr. W. H. Rutgers.

*Grounds:*

- a. He has several years of teaching-experience at Calvin Seminary, this in addition to his teaching at Grundy.
- b. No less an authority than Prof. Berkhof, whom the Synod of 1951 wisely appointed to be the advisor for its committee to investigate the Seminary, and who himself occupied the chair of Dogmatics at our school for many years and is therefore competent to judge, urged the reappointment of Dr. Rutgers.
- c. He enjoys the confidence of our people.
- d. He has written an excellent doctoral dissertation, which shows that he is an able theologian.
- s. He has an up-to-date knowledge of his field.

- f. With his knowledge of Dogmatics he combines excellent practical sense; moreover, his Dutch as well as American background fit him for this chair. See the document in which three of his colleagues urge his reappointment, giving ten grounds.
  - g. The Consistory is convinced that of the men in our denomination who might be considered for this chair, none is better qualified.
  - h. He is aggressively Reformed, and has prepared series of class-lectures which have been adjudged excellent both in quality (well-organized) and quantity.
2. For the Department of Practical Theology the consistory proposes the appointment of Dr. L. Greenway. *Grounds:*
- a. He is thoroughly and aggressively Reformed.
  - b. He has earned a reputation as a teacher.
  - c. His sermons are deeply appreciated by our people.
  - d. He is the type of man who could give prestige to the Department of Practical Theology, approaching the degree and the kind of prestige which it enjoyed when Dr. Volbeda was the incumbent of this chair.
  - e. He is known as a man who can do a great deal of work, is very industrious.
  - f. He has been (and is) very successful as a pastor.
  - g. His knowledge of church-music will add to his usefulness in the Department of Practical Theology.
3. For the Department of Apologetics and Ethics, the consistory proposes Dr. C. Van Til of Westminster Seminary. *Grounds:*
- a. He is well-known and highly respected in our circles.
  - b. He enjoys a reputation for aggressive orthodoxy,
  - c. He is thoroughly at home in his field; is known to be a real scholar.
  - d. He is the author of several excellent books (and sets of Notes) in his field.
  - e. He has proved himself to be a highly successful teacher both at Westminster and at Calvin (as visiting professor,)
  - f. He is thoroughly at home in Barthianism and is able to shed the necessary light upon it.
  - g. He is the kind of man who would add prestige to our school.
  - h. As far as the consistory is aware, he stands head and shoulders above anyone else who might possibly receive consideration for this chair.
4. For the Department of the New Testament, the consistory proposes Dr. William Hendriksen. *Grounds:*
- a. He was recommended for this chair by the standing committee which reported to the Synod of 1952, and this after very lengthy investigation. By majority-vote the committee recommended Dr. Hendriksen's reappointment, but this fact has never been given publicity. We, as consistory, feel that our people who support the school both financially and morally, have a right to know this.
  - b. No less an authority than Prof. Berkhof, whom the Synod of 1951 wisely appointed to be advisor for its committee to investigate the Seminary, and who himself occupied the chair of New Testament at our school for several years and is therefore competent to judge, urged the reappointment of Dr. Hendriksen.
  - c. His reappointment was also urged by several leading ministers of our denomination, including several members of the Board of Trus-

tees, and three of his colleagues (Prof. Volbeda, Wyngaarden, and Rutgers) in a document giving ten grounds.

- d. Not only was his reappointment urged by the majority of what is to-day the Middler class, in a well written document, but also by all the graduate-students who could be contacted in 1951. It is clear that he is able to impart instruction both on a graduate and post-graduate level, and that by teaching several courses which have since been eliminated, he would be able to restore the academic prestige of the New Testament Department.
- e. He has an earned doctoral degree in his field, and his transcript of Seminary credits contains clear proof of his scholarliness.
- f. He has written many works in his field, in which, according to one authority he combines, "real scholarship and simplicity of expression." He is currently writing a commentary on the New Testament, which speaks for itself and his extra ordinary ability.
- g. During the short time he has been in Bryon Center he already has demonstrated his gift of exegesis which is also evident in his catechetical instruction.
- h. Dr. Hendriksen enjoys our full confidence and by his personality he has won his way into the hearts of the young people as well as the older ones in our congregation.
- i. We propose Dr. Hendriksen for the New Testament chair because it is our conviction that he has the qualifications for it. As a matter of fact, we feel his services should not have been discontinued. However, we wish to have it clearly understood that his departure from our congregation would be keenly felt as a real loss locally.

Brethren we are convinced that by adopting this advice you will have taken steps which could lead to the re-establishment or enhancement of the prestige of our Seminary. It is an open secret that at present this school does not enjoy that degree of the confidence of our people which is desirable.

May the God of the covenant who in the days of Prof. L. Berkhof and Prof. S. Volbeda richly blessed our Seminary, give you the guidance which you will need in all your deliberations.

The Consistory of the Byron Center  
Christian Reformed Church  
Frank Wierenga, Clerk

Done in consistory February 20, 1953, by unanimous decision.

## 28. *Seminary Appointments.*

Esteemed Brethren:  
The Consistory of the First Jenison Christian Reformed Church was greatly displeased with the drastic action taken by the Synod of 1952 re two of our Seminary professors — Dr. William Rutgers and Dr. William Hendriksen — and overtures the Synod of 1953 to re-appoint the brethren to resume their teaching coming September. *Grounds:*

1. Both of these men have earned doctor's degrees in theology in highly reputable schools of learning, viz., the Free University of Amsterdam and the Princeton Seminary.
2. These men have an experience of eight and nine years respectively teaching in our Seminary and have in consequence of that fact

gained a wide and intimate acquaintance with their respective fields of specialization, which a new beginner in the field would not have.

3. These men have distinguished themselves by their warm and enthusiastic appreciation and love for the Reformed faith, which cannot fail to kindle a similar appreciation and love for that faith in the hearts of our future ministers. In their written work, in their sermons and lectures they have proven themselves to be able and enthusiastic defenders of the Reformed faith and emphasized our Reformed principles in their teaching.
4. The Consistory is quite convinced that these servants of God have the whole hearted confidence of all our people and therefore overtures Synod to appoint them; professors in the branches they have taught.

May the King of the Church by His Holy Spirit give you the necessary wisdom in this weighty matter and in all other matters brought before your honorable body.

Respectfully Submitted by  
The Consistory of the First Christian  
Reformed Church, Jenison, Michigan  
Rev. B. Essenburg, Pres.  
Albert Oosterheert, Clerk

## 29. *Modification of Rule Re Seminary Professors.*

The Consistory of the Calvin Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, overtures Synod:

- a. To modify its rule re the appointment of seminary professors to include the provision that nominations made on the floor of Synod shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary for advisement and possible approval.
- b. To adopt this modification at one of the early sessions of Synod so that it may go into effect before the present vacancies in the Seminary are filled. *Grounds:*
  1. The Board of Trustees is charged with making such nominations, after a conference has been held with the theological faculty. Acts 1930, Art. 23, p. 20.
  2. Current practice gives a synodical delegate a greater authority in such matters than is invested in a duly appointed synodical board. Cf. Acts 1924, p. 32 which declares that Synod is not limited to such a nomination.
  3. If a Classis is concerned that a certain name be placed in nomination, it can instruct its delegate to the Board to present it. As a rule, nominations made from the floor of Synod are the result of individual preferences rather than instructions from a Classis.
  4. The probability exists that the majority of nominees suggested by Synod have already been considered by the Board of Trustees and rejected by this group for valid reasons. Synod should be apprised of these reasons in a proper manner.
  5. This in no manner violates the provision in Article 5 of the Constitution of Calvin College and Seminary which states, "the Synod

reserves for itself the right to appoint the members of the theological faculty."

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. C. Boomsma, President  
Gillus Otten, Clerk

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**30.** *New Revised Standard Bible Version.*

Classis Sioux Center, requests Synod to study the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible with a view to advising our people, whether they should support, or oppose its distribution. *Grounds:*

1. Amidst many extreme statements re this version, both pro and con, there is need for enlightened and uniform opinion among us.
2. Organization (s) which our people support may distribute it.

W. Vande Kieft, S.C.

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**31.** *Junior Colleges and Calvin College and Seminary Quotas.*

Classis Sioux Center, overtures Synod to allow Classis Sioux Center, and any other Classis which affiliates in an official manner with the Mid-West Junior College Movement, to hold back 20% of the Calvin College and Seminary quotas, to be used by this Mid-West movement for their current running expenses when the Junior College doors are opened.

W. Vande Kieft, S.C.

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**32.** *Decision of 1952 Re Seminary Situation.*

Whereas confusion arose in several churches regarding the discontinuation of the services of four Seminary professors, to the point that some thought doctrinal differences to be at stake; and whereas that confusion seemed to be due largely to Synod's vague terminology and ambiguous reports; and whereas such confusion has detrimental effects upon the welfare and peace of the church as a whole, the Consistory of Neerlandia humbly overtures the Synod of 1953 henceforth to state with greater clarity the reasons for such drastic actions and to avoid in the future confusion in the churches on such important matters.

L. Mulder, Pres.  
J. Visser, Sec.

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**33.** *Candidacy of Mr. Martin H. Woudstra.*

Classis Alberta, having examined Mr. Martin H. Woudstra, in accordance with the decision of the Synod of 1952, Acts, p. 94, as to his views on Article 31 of the Church Order, and having received a favorable report concerning his work from the Consistory of Edmonton III under whom he has worked as stated supply;

1. declares that it is satisfied that Mr. Woudstra's views on Article 31 C.O. are sound, and therefore,
2. recommends to the Synod of 1953 that Mr. Woudstra be declared a candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**34.** *Transfer of Saskatoon to Classis Alberta.*

Classis Alberta, having received a request from the Consistory of the church at Saskatoon, Sask., to come under this Classis, acceded to this

request, and advises Synod to approve this transfer. This was done in consultation with Classis Minnesota South to which Saskatoon now belongs.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

**35.** *Additional Lay-Members on General Committee for Home Missions.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod that two members-at large, who are not ministers, be added to the General Committee for Home Missions, one from the Eastern part of Canada, and one from the West (the Ontario-Manitoba line the division.) Preferably these men should be members of the Classical Home Missions Committees of one of the Classes in these areas. *Grounds:*

1. Laymen who are residents of Canada will be better able to judge and advise in matters pertaining to Canada.
2. The rapid expansion of the work requires more representation for Canada.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

**36.** *Membership Certificates for Absentee Members.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod to recommend to the Consistories the use of a membership certificate for members who are travelling or residing elsewhere temporarily, similar to those used by the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands for this purpose. These certificates would be valid for only a year or six months, and require endorsement by other Consistories regarding such matters as attendance at the Lord's Supper, family visiting, etc. *Grounds:*

1. With modern easy transportation more and more people are travelling. Such a certificate would make it easier for them to obtain admission to the communion of other congregations, and also enable the home church to exercise a measure of supervision over its members.
2. Our Canadian churches have difficulty with many of their young people who drift about working away from home, but do not establish residence elsewhere permanently.
3. Such certificates would also be useful for students at Calvin and other schools.

Should Synod decide to recommend such certificates, Classis requests that the Publication Committee be instructed to prepare them and make them available to the churches.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

**37.** *Examination of Candidates by Synod.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod to devote at least two full days this year to the examination of students for candidacy for the Gospel ministry, instead of the usual one day. *Grounds:*

1. The number of candidates is too large to do justice to this highly important work in one day.
2. The welfare of the churches demands that proper attention be given to the examination of the candidates.
3. Unless at least two days are devoted to this work, we will have a repetition of what happened at the Synod of 1952, that just six

minutes were allotted each candidate for the examination in Dogmatics, and a proportionate amount of time in each of the other departments. It is obvious that such little time is altogether inadequate, and almost makes the examination a farce.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

### 38. *Praeparatoir Examination of Candidates by Classes.*

Classis Alberta overtures Synod to refer the examination of students for candidacy to the Classes of the Church, and that each prospective candidate be examined by the Classis where he resided before he came to Calvin. Travelling expenses incurred by students to the meeting of such classes should be added to the quota for Synodical expenses since the interest of this work concerns the entire denomination. *Grounds:*

1. Classes will be able to devote more time to this work than Synod.
2. This arrangement will distribute the work over the whole denomination, and will not require the Classes within, e.g., a radius of 200 miles from Grand Rapids, to assume all the responsibility for this work.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

### 39. *Student Fellowship Fund for Students.*

Classis Alberta overtures Synod to establish a Student Fellowship Fund for the purpose of enabling students from The Netherlands, who have completed their theological studies preparatory to entering the Gospel ministry and who have a desire to emigrate to Canada to serve the Lord in the Christian Ref. Church, to spend a year at Calvin Seminary with a view to orientation and to gain a ready use of the English language. The Fund should continue in operation for the duration of the emergency in Canada. This Fund could be established by (a) asking each of our 24 Classes to annually contribute \$100 toward this fund out of their respective Student Funds; and (b) appealing to our church public for special gifts for this purpose by people interested in giving voluntary support to this undertaking. *Grounds:*

1. The need for ministerial supply in Canada continues to grow more critical each year as the immigration continues.
2. Very few of our own candidates are able to use the Holland language.
3. The calling of ministers from the Netherlands can meet the need in a small way, but has its limitations.
4. It will take a number of years before the church in Canada begins to provide ministers out of its own bosom.
5. By getting young men from the Netherlands who have completed their theological studies it will be possible to draw on this source of supply without delay; we shall be able annually to increase the supply for Canada; and we will get men who can more readily adapt themselves to the change in language and customs obtaining on this side of the Atlantic.
6. It will become increasingly difficult for the Chr. Ref. Church to supply the need, because the number of available men grows smaller right along, and the majority of those available are men of middle age or older.

Assuming that favorable action is taken in the matter of the Student Fellowship Fund, Classis further overtures Synod to appoint a Committee, whose task it will be to put the plan into operation. The Committee will set up the necessary regulations governing the conditions for application, the screening of applicants, the amount a student shall receive conditional on serving the Chr. Ref. Church in Canada, etc.

Since each candidate who is eligible to call is free in deciding whether he wants to accept a call from one of our churches in the United States or a Canadian Church, candidates who received financial support from the Student Fellowship Fund, should be obliged to refund all the money received from this Fund, when they accept a call from a church in the United States.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

#### 40. *Transfer of Title re: Property.*

The Christian Seamen's Home Board and the Eastern Home Mission Board recommend to the Classes Hackensack and Hudson that they overture Synod for permission to transfer title to the property now in use by the Christian Reformed Church of Hoboken located at 310 Hudson St., Hoboken, N.J. to the Executive Committee of Home Missions. *Grounds:*

1. This is the property of Synod. It is held now by the Christian Seamen's Home Board for Synod.
2. The Christian Seamen's Home Board should not hold title to this property, as it now does, simply because its province and work is the Seamen's Home and not the Church of Hoboken. The moneys which the Seamen's Home receives are not intended for the maintenance of the Hoboken Church property but specifically for the Seamen's Home and its work.
3. On the other hand, in view of the fact that it is the practice of the Executive Committee for Home Missions (in accordance with Synodical ruling) to purchase and hold properties of mission stations and therefrom developed small and financially weak churches until such churches are able and desirous of taking over such properties (by purchasing them according to rules set up therefor,) it appears to lie directly in the province of the Executive Committee for Home Missions to hold this property.

Signed: Thomas Van Eerden, for the Seamen's Home Board.

O. Holtrop, for the Eastern Home Mission Board.

P. S. It may be added that in our judgment the Hoboken Consistory is not able at this time to purchase this property and thus to hold title to the church property it is using.

Classes Hackensack and Hudson approves the action of the Seamen's Home Board, and the Eastern Home Mission Board in the matter, and overtures Synod accordingly.

E. Joling, S.C.

#### 41. *Hoboken Seamen's Home under supervision of one Classis:*

"The Committee for the Seamen's Home Board humbly requests Classis Hackensack and Hudson to place the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrants' Home under one Classis, rather than two, on the ground that the Home can be more efficiently operated by one Classis."



Classis Hackensack overtures Synod so to do, since the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrant Home is under Synod's control.

Note: Classis Hackensack suggests placing the Seamen's Home under the supervision of Classis Hudson since "the spiritual work at the Seamen's Home is closely connected with the Hoboken Chr. Reformed Church of Classis Hudson.

E. Joling, S.C.

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**42.** *The Paterson Hebrew Mission under the supervision of one Classis.* "The Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission respectfully recommends that the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present." *Grounds:*

Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis a much closer and direct cooperation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency and with possible advantage to this Kingdom work."

Classis Hackensack approves this Overture, and decides that it be forwarded to Synod for final action, since the Paterson Hebrew Mission is a denominational project. Classis suggests placing this Paterson Hebrew Mission under the supervision of Classis Hackensack, since the Superintendent of the Mission is also Associate Pastor of one of the Churches of Classis Hackensack.

E. Joling, S.C.

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**43.** *Centennial of our Denomination in 1957.*

Classis Hackensack overtures Synod to appoint a committee composed of representative clergy and laymen, from all parts of the denomination, whose duty it will be to present to Synod of 1954 and following Synods a set of plans for church-wide observance of this milestone — incorporating such programs, celebrations, publications, and memorials as may be suitable and significant. *Grounds:*

1. The century of existence through critical years of our denominational and national history has been possible only by the providence of God, to whom the praise of our people should be directed in a special way.
2. Proper observance of this centennial will benefit young and old.
3. Previous anniversaries have been suitably commemorated; cf. 1907, 1932, and 1934 (also, Calvin Jubilee 1951).

E. Joling, S.C.

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**44.** *Reorganization of Immigration Committee*

Classis Alberta supports the proposal of the Synodical Immigration Committee regarding reorganization of the Committee as made in its Report to Synod.

1. This will cause the least shake-up in the machinery of this important work.
2. This will fit in better with the Canadian Government set-up.
3. It will bring about closer contact with the churches.

Classis also recommends that Synod raise the quota of the Canadian Immigration Fund so that part-time fieldmen can again be paid.

ELCO H. OOSTENDORP, S.C.

**45. Request for Emeritation**

Classis Hudson in session April 28, 1953 at the First Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, decided to overture Synod re the emeritation of the Rev. A. H. Bratt.

Classis Hudson approved this request, presented by the Midland Park Consistory on the grounds:

1. That toward the close of 1953 he will have served the church 40 years.
2. At the close of the year 1953 he will be 66 years of age, D.V. and
3. This will open the door of opportunity to some younger and more efficient person.

The time for emeritation has been left to the Midland Park consistory — November 1, 1953, if the war is over by that time, or January 1, 1954.

F. L. NETZ, S.C.

**46. Canadian Emergency Building Fund**

Esteemed Brethren:

Classis Hamilton comes to your honorable body with a very serious matter and an urgent request. You are all familiar with the conditions prevailing in Canada among our Holland Immigrants and their need of financial help to build churches and parsonages. We are all well aware how heroically and unstintingly the churches of our denomination have contributed their gifts to supply this need. We believe also that the Lord of His Church will not withhold the showers of blessings that will ensue from such devotion to His cause. The people of Canada are very genuinely grateful for this help, more than mere words could express. Nor could we adequately appraise the spiritual significance it has for the people. We are also deeply appreciative of the efforts which were put forth on our behalf by the Synodical Committee and other agencies that so eloquently pleaded for this cause.

The cause is still very urgent. So urgent that we make bold to lay this cause once more before you for your serious and prayerful consideration and Christian help. There is still a great need for churches and parsonages. Many of our churches have no church, no parsonage, nor adequate furniture for their churches.

*"Classis Hamilton, therefore, overtures the Synod of 1953 to again make provision for the financial support through the Canadian Emergency Church Help Fund, and it humbly requests Synod to authorize the Church Help Fund Committee to conduct a financial drive for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund."*

**GROUNDS:**

- (1) This cause represents a real spiritual need in that it concerns the necessities for places of worship and homes for ministers.
- (2) There is an immediate need for about 25 churches and parsonages.
- (3) Our people in Canada are not able to carry this heavy burden alone.

Humbly submitted,  
ELBERT KOOSTRA, S.C.

**47. Neutral Labor Unions**

Esteemed Brethren:

**I. Introductory Information.**

At the meeting of the former Classis Ontario in January, 1951, the Consistory of Sarnia asked advice concerning the question how consistories were to deal with those who had affiliated with so-called neutral

labor unions. In the interest of giving a satisfactory answer to this question, Classis appointed a Study Committee. This Committee reported at the meeting of Classis Ontario held in May, 1951. The report however was recommitted for further study and revision.

Since in the meantime Classis Ontario was divided into three new Classes, the Committee's revised and elaborated report was brought to the attention of the three new Classes which held their sessions in the month of January, 1953. This was done after the Consistories had been given ample opportunity to consider the report and the advice given. Classis Hamilton at its meeting of January 14, 1953, adopted this report and its advice with minor alterations but ordered its members still serving on the Committee to draw up a final draft of the report in the English language for consideration at its next meeting on April 22, 1953.

Classis at this meeting adopted an overture to the Synod of 1953, based on this report and further decided that the overture with the report itself as background thereof be passed on to the Synod. Thus we offer the report and the overture and in that order:

## II. *The Report Proper:*

In order to determine the attitude which a Christian should assume toward the so-called neutral labor unions, on the basis of the Word of God and our Calvinistic principles, we must find an answer to the following four questions:

- A. Who and What is a Christian?
- B. What is the Task of a Christian?
- C. What is the character and purpose of the so-called neutral labor unions?
- D. What attitude should a Christian assume toward such labor organizations?

### A. *Who and What is a Christian?*

Not all Christians give the same answer to the question: "Who and What is a Christian?" The answer of the Anabaptist will be different from that of the Arminian; and both will differ from the answer given by the Calvinist. The Anabaptist considers it the Christian's duty to withdraw himself from the world. He allows for a great deal of life in this world that has nothing to do with the service of the Lord. The Arminian also believes that much of life is neutral, and that there are portions of it, where the rule of God does not penetrate. Thus, for the Arminian also there is a considerable part of life in this world, wherein he need not reckon with Christ. The Christian of Reformed persuasion, however, cannot find himself in either one of the positions mentioned above. He confesses that he must live his whole life out of the principle of regeneration; that with body and soul, for this time and for eternity, he belongs to his faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore there is no part of his life, nor of the life of the world, that does not fall under the authority of his Lord and King. Thus the Reformed Christian insists that in the social and economic relationships of life also the crown-rights of Christ must be acknowledged.

This Reformed world - and life-view is based on the Word of God. Paul says, in I Cor. 6:20: "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which are God's." Peter calls the Christian a person redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ." (I Peter 1:19) Hence, he belongs to the regiment of his Redeemer - King. In another passage Paul avers: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,

and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16) in Eph. 2:10 it is written: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." In a similar vein the Apostle Paul states that Christians are "elect . . . that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Eph. 1:4) The Christian does not even belong to himself, for the Word of God declares in I Cor 6:19, "Know ye not that ye are not your own?" And again Paul again states in Romans 14:8b, "whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

From all these passages it must be clear that the Christian never can or may speak of neutrality. A Christian living according to the Word of God and our Reformed Confessions is never neutral; but he is the servant of the Lord, one bought with the precious blood of Christ, and renewed by the Holy Spirit of God. He is joined inseparately unto his Lord, without who he can do nothing. This fact must become evident, everywhere and at all times, in all his life and walk. His relation to Christ is primary and must be for him the standard according to which all the relations of life must be defined. Where the honor and the demands of God are at stake, the Christian will never speak of neutrality; for his Lord taught him to pray: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven."

#### B. *What is the Task of the Christian?*

From the foregoing it follows naturally that the Christian has a definite task in this world. Since he belongs to Him who said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt. 28:18) he must, always and everywhere, "show forth the praises of Him who called him out of darkness into His marvelous light." Neither did the Lord who purchased His people neglect to inform them about the task He had committed unto them. His word is very plain: "Ye are the salt of the earth . . . ye are the light of the world." (Matt. 5:13-16) Christians cannot remain hidden, but they are called upon to let their "Light so shine among men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Therefore, wherever you find the Christian, there you taste the principle of the new life: there a clear light is spread abroad in the dark world.

In this connection it is of the utmost importance that we understand the task of the Christian to be applicable, not merely to some particular portion of life, but, on the contrary, to all the spheres of the life of man. As Dr. A. Kuyper said: "The members of the body of Christ must, in a spiritual sense, conquer the whole world for Him. All the treasures which God has created in our human race must be sanctified in the name of Christ. Not a single power of the original creation may be surrendered or destroyed. Therefore, the Kingship of the Only Begotten Son of God cannot be anything else but a Kingship over the whole realm of humanity in the fullest sense." (Pro Rege 1 322, 323, 332) Never is the power of Christ limited to the merely spiritual sphere.

In the execution of his task the Christian is ever reminded by God, that he may never distance himself from His Lord to whom he belongs, and whom he must serve and glorify in everything. Also in his relation to the social-economic life, the Christian may never act independently of his Lord and King; but in these domains too, he must constantly be busy as the servant of Christ, doing the will of the Lord his God. (Eph. 6:5-9)

Christian laboring men also have their first obligation to Christ. In Titus 2:9, 10 Paul exhorts servants "to be obedient unto their own masters, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

Peter enjoins servants that in the midst of their difficult service they should look to Christ, who "left us an example that we should follow His steps." (I Peter 2:21) Everyone, be he servant or master, man or woman, parent or child, must always consider, and live according to, the Scriptural injunctions "Ye are the Lord's," (Romans 14:8) and "ye are the servants of Christ" (Col. 3:22). These words of the Scripture have the same authority today that they had nineteen centuries ago.

Loyalty and faithfulness to Christ in the past, and continues at present, to bring the Christian in conflict with the world. And this conflict is not merely one that is waged only among men. "For," says the Apostle Paul, "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12) This spiritual warfare continues unto the present day. Although different relationships may have emerged in this world, there remains that conflict for the Christian, — a conflict that must be fought also in the social-economic sphere. He may never surrender in that fight by adopting a so-called neutral position. Abraham Kuyper once wrote these significant words which continue in full force today: "For the Christian there lurks a constant danger in social mingling. So easily we allow society in its worldly forms to set our standards. What is then allowed in the social-economic sphere by the world is also quite easily permitted by the Christian. Unawares we drift along with the current that we cannot resist. Thus, unwittingly, we exchange the principle of our Christian life for the impure principle of a worldly society." (Pro Rege III 189)

Therefore, it is the Christian's task to define all the secondary relations of life by this one standard of his primary relations to Jesus Christ his King. There can be no fellowship, no common cause, no agreement between two camps, of which the one acknowledges and confesses God, while the other ignores and eliminates, or even openly denies Him. Paul warns: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (II Cor. 6:14-18)

The Christian who is called to live out of the principle of regeneration thereby receives a clear mandate concerning his position in the world. He cannot, and may not, renounce his own principle for the sake of those who live out of another principle, in order to seek the establishment of a so-called common righteousness. It is true, God's Word is no volume of law which cites statutes and cases; yet, it clearly states out of which principle God's people must live. The Christian must always be a salting salt, a light-giving light, a witnessing witness, a serving servant, a willing possession of Christ, a pure temple of the Holy Spirit. Here all neutrality is excluded. According to the Word of God all the relationships of life are controlled by the one primary relationship which the Christian sustains to Christ his King. This relationship to Christ covers not only a certain part of life, as the Anabaptists claim; but as our Confessions make plain, it extends to all the manifestations of life and to all its domains. Neutrality

in the social-economic sphere in which ideals and principles are set forth, is once and for all impossible for the Calvinist who desires to live in accordance with God's Word.

C. *What is the Character and Purpose of the so-called Neutral Labor Unions?*

The so-called neutral labor union, as far as its character is concerned, is an association which seeks to unite all employees in one organization, regardless of religion, creed, color or race. For that reason it operates under a constitution and conducts its affairs without reckoning with Christ and His Word. It is an organization which claims to be neutral, and because of this so-called neutrality necessarily is bound to allow its purposes and aims to be defined not by what the Word of God requires, but merely by the will and desire of the majority of its members.

The chief purpose of the so-called neutral labor union is merely to promote the material welfare of its members. Further, in its attempt to attain this goal, it is led by the principles of humanism, and employs only such means as meet the approval of the majority of its members. From this it becomes evident that, when we evaluate the means such neutral labor unions use in order to gain their ends, in the light of the Word of God and the Christian principles based thereon, these must often be condemned.

Some of these methods and practices employed by these unions, which are objectionable, are the following:

1. The advocacy of the so-called "Union Shop" or "closed shop" without giving any consideration for the worker who may have conscientious scruples against joining their organization.
2. The use of the "jurisdictional strike" and "boycotts", by which employees are forced to join a certain union, or employers are compelled to make a contract with a certain union, even though this union has not the legal right to make such demands.
3. The acquisition of their ends through means which sometimes endanger the public welfare, and frequently set aside governmental instituted agencies for the settlement of disputes between employers and employees.
4. The abuse of the Lord's Day, particularly, by using this day for their meetings (local, sectional and national) and by allowing all kinds of Sunday labor, as long as it receives extra pay.

D. *What Attitude should the Christian adopt over against such so-called Neutral Labor Unions?*

After all that has been said about the Christian and his task, and about the character and purposes of the so-called neutral labor unions, we need not present an elaborate statement concerning the attitude which the Christian should take over against such organizations.

The governing principle here is this: The Christian in virtue of his relationship to Christ, his King, can never be neutral. In all relationships of life he must be loyal to Him, to whom he belongs, both with body and soul. On the basis of this fundamental principle, we draw the following conclusions:

1. Christians may co-operate with non-Christians in the promotion of certain interests which are in agreement with the law of God; but only then, when such co-operation does not bring into jeopardy their relationship to Christ, their Lord and King, and thus, would make their Christian testimony virtually impossible.

2. Therefore for the Christian there is no place in an organization which in its constitution and practices clearly indicates that it comes in conflict with the authority of Christ and that of the Word of God.

3. Christians, therefore, in virtue of their obligation to give joint testimony to the principles of God's Word, should form such organizations which acknowledge the authority of Christ and the Holy Scriptures.

### III. *Overture to the Synod of 1953:*

A. On the basis of the material presented in the above, Classis Hamilton hereby requests the Synod to declare that for the Christian, in as much as he desires to live principally ("principieel" in the Dutch language) according to the teachings of God's Word, there is no place in an organization which in its constitution and practices clearly shows that it comes in conflict with the authority of Christ and the Holy Scriptures such as, among others, "The American Federation of Labor" and "The Congress of Industrial Organizations."

B. Classis Hamilton, further requests Synod to urge all laborers to join a Christian Labor Organization (such as the Christian Labor Assoc.) wherever this is possible; and to make attempts to organize locals of Christian labor organizations, where they do not exist at present.

#### *Grounds:*

I. The character and aim of the so-called Labor Unions is that it is an association which seeks to unite all employees in one organization, regardless of religion, creed, color or race. For that reason it operates under a constitution and conducts its affairs without reckoning with Christ and His Word. It is an organization which claims to be neutral, and because of this so-called neutrality necessarily is bound to allow its purposes and aims to be defined not by what the Word of God requires, but merely by the will and desire of the majority of its members.

The chief purpose of the so-called neutral labor union is merely to promote the material welfare of its members. Further, in its attempts to attain this goal, it is led by the principles of humanism, and employs only such means as meet the approval of the majority of its members. From this it becomes evident that, when we evaluate the means such labor unions use in order to gain their ends, in the light of the Word of God and the Christian principles based thereon, these must often be condemned.

Some of these methods and practices employed by these unions, which are objectionable, are the following:

a. The advocacy of the so-called "Union Shop" or "closed shop" without giving any consideration for the worker who may have conscientious scruples against joining their organization.

b. The use of the "jurisdictional strike" and "boycotts" by which employees are forced to join a certain union, or employers are compelled to make a contract with a certain union, even though this union has not the legal right to make such demands.

c. The acquisition of their ends through means which sometimes endanger the public welfare, and frequently set aside governmentally instituted agencies for the settlement of disputes between employers and employees.

d. The abuse of the Lord's Day, particularly by using this day for their meetings (local, sectional and national) and by allowing all kinds of Sunday labor, as long as it receives extra pay.

2. The governing principle that should guide us in this matter is that the Christian in virtue of his relation to Christ, his King, can never be

neutral. In all relationships of life he must be loyal to Him, to whom he belongs, both with body and soul. On the basis of this fundamental principle, we draw the following conclusions:

a. Christians may co-operate with non-Christians in the promotion of certain interests which are in agreement with the law of God; but only then, when such co-operation does not bring into jeopardy their relationship to Christ, their Lord and King, and thus would make their Christian testimony virtually impossible.

b. Therefore for the Christian there is no place in an organization which in its constitution and practices clearly indicates that it comes in conflict with the authority of Christ and that of the Word of God.

c. Christians, therefore, in virtue of their obligation to give joint testimony to the principles of God's Word, should form such organizations which acknowledge the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures.

Humbly submitted,  
ELBERT KOOISTRA, S. C.

#### 48. *Westminster Seminary and Accredited List*

Esteemed Brethren:

The Consistory of the First Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, Minnesota overtures Synod to carefully investigate the following matters before again placing Westminster Seminary of Philadelphia, Pa. on the accredited list for financial support by our churches:

- I. Does this institution have the same stand on the Lodge as our church? Are there lodge members on the faculty? Are any of the graduates entering the ministry members of the lodge?
- II. Does this institution hold the same teachings regarding divorce as our church, namely, the one and only scriptural ground of adultery?
- III. Who determines or supervises the teaching of this institution and what guarantees do we have of the soundness and authority of this ruling body?
- IV. Is the faculty of this institution in full agreement with the stand of the Christian Reformed Church on worldly amusements, in practice and in their teaching?
- V. These and other matters, including agreement with the position of our church on Common Grace, might be matters worthy of investigation before we again support Westminster.

Done in Consistory, April 6, 1953  
HARM GEERDES, Clerk

#### 49. *Reorganization of Immigration Committee*

Esteemed Brethren:

Classis Hamilton comes to your honorable body with the following overture with the kind request that you give heed to its urgent request therein expressed.

Classis Hamilton believes that the time has come for us to reorganize the immigration work in Canada. This belief is not born of the fact that we wish to criticize the work of the present committee, or our fieldmen. We believe that the present committee has done splendid work. We would even suggest that these men be retained in the reorganized plan. The fieldmen, generally speaking, have also given themselves to the work in a way that can but be admired. Nevertheless we believe that reorganization of the work would be for the benefit of the churches.



*Grounds:*

1. Conditions have radically changed since this work was begun.
  - a. The conditions of placement have changed. Formerly we were able to place many through the contacts we had in the Netherlands. This is no longer possible. Outside of relative cases which almost take care of themselves, we are now limited to those who are processed by immigration officials. This limiting of our work makes it necessary that we place those who are available at the most strategic places.
  - b. Further, in the beginning of this work we had but 14 churches in Canada. Most of them were weak, and badly scattered. Now we have about 90 churches. These churches are more concentrated so that now we have 4 exclusively Canadian Classes. These facts make reorganization not only desirable but necessary.
  - c. At present this work is directed by a committee of men who are appointed by Synod and who in theory are nominated by the Immigration societies. This Committee meets but twice a year, the rest of the business is carried on by correspondence. The only direct connection between them and the churches is through Synod. Yet the churches are vitally concerned. The committee determines which churches are strengthened, or not strengthened. This placement determines where new churches are to be established, where missionaries are to be sent. The committee leads, the churches must follow. If a sizeable group is placed somewhere, who can deny them spiritual care? From this it would be evident to all that it would be to the advantage of the churches if a more direct connection were established between the churches and this work.
2. Reorganization is further desirable because of the rapid growth in Ontario. At the beginning Ontario had but four of these fourteen churches. Now it has more than half of the total. Because attention was drawn to this fact the last Synod decided to add two members from Ontario to this committee. The Immigration Council of Ontario decided not to carry out this decision of Synod because in 1949 Synod decided not to enlarge this committee. Surely this disregard of the decision of Synod was uncalled for because Synod had taken the decision on the basis of the growth in Ontario noted above.
3. Reorganization is also necessary in order that the work of the field-men may be better regulated. We would not say that it is not regulated at present, but we believe that it is too sporadic (the committee meets but twice a year) and from too great a distance. We believe that there should be more local supervision and control of the work done. This can but be for the benefit of the churches.

Because of the foregoing considerations Classis Hamilton proposes as a possible solution among others the following plan for reorganization of the immigration work in Canada.

1. *General Committee.*

The Canadian Classes and the United States Classes having Canadian churches shall each nominate one member to serve on this general committee subject to the approval of Synod. This committee shall:

- a. Meet normally once a year
- b. Choose its own officers
- c. Administer the funds which Synod shall place at its disposal
- d. Determine the general policies of the work and keep in contact with the Canadian Department of Immigration

- e. Engage or dismiss local fieldmen, and determine expansion or contraction of the work. Appointment of additional fieldmen, to be subject to the approval of Synod
- f. Give a complete report to Synod and submit a budget for Synod's approval
- g. The Secretary of Home Missions shall be a member of this general committee

2. *Local Committees*

In each Canadian Classis the member of the general committee shall be, or become, a member of the Classical Home Missions Committee. In each American Classis with Canadian Churches a separate Canadian Home Missions Committee shall be appointed. The member of the general committee shall be a member of this committee. These local committees shall:

- a. Supervise the work of the fieldmen in their districts, receive reports, and approve their expenses.
- b. Report to the Classis and to the general committee of the work done and the progress made.
- c. Advise the general committee as to the necessary expansion or contraction of their work in their district.
- d. Wherever feasible (e.g. in Ontario) these committees shall keep in contact with neighboring committees in order that the work may be carried on as effectively as possible.

Humbly submitted,  
ELBERT KOOSTRA, S. C.

**50.** *Reorganization of Immigration Committee*

Having taken note of the report of the combined committee of the Classes Hamilton and Eastern Ontario on the reorganization of the Immigration Committee and its methods of operation, we are of the opinion that the proposed changes might well be improved upon. We are not going to enter upon the merits of the "considerations" of the committee that lead to the proposed improvement, though they are subject to debate. We would however beg to point to the fact that the recommended change involves a dual control which will prove to be unsatisfactory. The fieldmen would be in the employ of the General Committee for Immigration, and hence subject to its control, but they would at the same time be responsible to the local committees. We believe it should be possible to get away from this faulty provision, which is bound to lead to trouble, and still attain unto a greater measure of cooperation between the Committee and the churches, which is the aim of the revisers.

Classis Eastern Ontario overtures Synod to adopt the following recommendations for the improvement of the Immigration work and propose these to Synod.

- 1. That for the administration of the Immigration work there shall be a standing committee of Synod which shall be known as the Immigration Committee.
- 2. a. This Committee shall be composed of one member appointed by each of the Canadian Classes and the United States Classes having churches in Canada, and approved by Synod.
- b. The Secretary of Home Missions shall be an additional member ex-officio.
- c. This Committee shall normally meet once a year.
- d. It shall choose its own officers.

- e. It shall administer the funds Synod shall place at its disposal.
  - f. It shall determine the general policies of the work and keep in contact with the Canadian Department of Immigration.
  - g. It shall engage and dismiss local fieldmen and determine the expansion or contraction of the work. All this subject to the approval of Synod.
  - h. It shall render a complete report to Synod and submit a budget for Synod's approval.
2. Regional Committees:
- a. This General Committee shall be divided into two Regional Committees, one including the Eastern members, the other the Western members.
  - b. These regional committees shall choose their own officers and meet four times a year.
  - c. At these meetings they shall determine, in consultation with the proper Classical representatives, where immigrants should be placed and consider other immigration matters that may be of more regional interest.
  - d. To these the fieldmen shall report quarterly and from these shall receive approval of expenses incurred.
  - e. These Committees shall bring report of progress to the General Committee at its annual meeting.
3. Classical Cooperation
- a. Each Classis shall designate one member of its Classical Home Missions Committee to act as its representative in matters pertaining to Immigration.
  - b. These men must be present at the quarterly meeting of the Regional Committees to advise and give information. They shall have an advisory vote at these meetings.
  - c. They shall supply the Classis involved with an accurate report of what is going on in the sphere of Immigration, and through them the Classes and the churches will have an opportunity to make their desires known to the Immigration Committee.
  - d. Expenses incurred by these Classical appointees shall be paid from the Classical treasuries.

Classis Eastern Ontario,  
REV. C. WITT, S. C.

**51.** *Canadian Emergency Building Fund*  
Classis Eastern Ontario overtures the Synod of 1953 that in view of the constant need for help experienced by our young Canadian congregations in the matter of building churches and parsonages, and the difficulty in filling this need by means of drives, Classis Eastern Ontario kindly requests Synod to establish a quota sufficiently large to enable the Church Help Fund Committee to honor all legitimate requests.

Classis Eastern Ontario,  
CORNELIUS WITT, S. C.

**52.** *Church Membership of Calvin College Out-of-Town Students*  
Classis Grand Rapids South overtures Synod to decide that the decision of the Synod of 1949 regarding the church membership of out-of-town Calvin students be altered so that said students may affiliate with one of our Grand Rapids churches as regular members, or that said students may

retain their membership with their home church, but place themselves under the temporary spiritual care of one of our Grand Rapids churches.

For the latter alternative Classis suggests the following certificate for students who are members in full:

**STUDENT CERTIFICATE**  
(Member-in-full)

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church of.....hereby certifies that.....is a member-in-full of the above named church. Inasmuch as he/she expects to reside in Grand Rapids on a temporary basis as a student at our Calvin College or Seminary, this certificate is issued to him.

We request the Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church to whom he may present this certificate, to take him under its temporary supervision and care, and to grant him access to the sacraments. It shall be understood that the brother/sister shall continue to be a member of our congregation, unless and until he/she subsequently requests a regular membership certificate of us for the purpose of affiliating himself/herself with one of our churches in Grand Rapids or elsewhere. It shall also be understood that the choice places himself/herself under the supervision and care of the consistory of such a church, realizing however that this care and these favors do not entitle him/her to a voice or vote at your congregational meetings.

We shall appreciate to hear from the consistory under whose temporary spiritual care the bearer places himself, if at any time he/she should become delinquent either in doctrine or in life.

In the name of the Consistory,

Date.....

\* \* \* \*

Acknowledgement to be returned to the Certifying Church  
To the Consistory of the.....  
Christian Reformed Church of.....

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids hereby notifies your body that.....has presented to us the certificate you had issued to him/her, and that we have acceded to your request, and have taken him/her under our temporary spiritual care, and given him/her access to the sacraments in our midst.

Fraternally,

Date.....

\* \* \* \*

School Record Tab to be forwarded by Clerk of Grand Rapids Consistory to the office of Calvin College:  
Calvin College and Seminary:

This is to inform that.....of the Christian Reformed Church of.....has come under our temporary spiritual care while away from his home church as a student at Calvin College or Seminary.

Fraternally,  
Consistory of the

Chr. Ref. Church

Date.....

\* \* \* \*

The following Student Certificate is suggested for members-by-baptism.

**STUDENT CERTIFICATE**  
(Member-by-Baptism)

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church at.....hereby certifies that.....is a member-by-baptism of our congregation. Inasmuch as he/she expects to reside in Grand Rapids on a temporary basis as a student at our Calvin College, this certificate is given to him/her. We request the consistory of the church to whom he/she may present this certificate to take him/her under its temporary spiritual care, and specifically to permit him to attend its catechism classes.

In case the subject of this certificate should neglect the services of the Word and/or fail to attend the catechism classes, or should make himself/herself worthy of your admonition and correction for some other reason, we shall much appreciate to be informed of this fact.

In name of the consistory,  
Fraternally,

Date.....

\* \* \* \*

Acknowledgement to be returned to the certifying Church.

The Consistory of the.....Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids hereby notifies your body that.....has presented to us the certificate you had issued to him/her, and that we have acceded to your request and have taken him/her under our temporary spiritual care.

Fraternally,

Date.....

School Record Tab (To be forwarded to the Dean of Students of Calvin College).  
 This is to inform you that.....of the Christian Reformed  
 Church of.....has come under our temporary ecclesiastical  
 care, while away from his home church as a student at Calvin College.  
 Fraternally,  
 Consistory of the  
 Christian Reformed Church of  
 Grand Rapids

Date.....

\* \* \* \*

It shall be a rule that the School shall furnish each applicant for admission to Calvin College and Seminary, living at some distance from Grand Rapids, with a copy of the necessary certificate, preferably prior to the time of enrollment that every student who retains his membership with his home church shall place himself under the ecclesiastical care of one of our Grand Rapids churches within four weeks after the beginning of a new semester.

Motivation for our overture:

It does not seem wise to urge and compel students who are absent from home on a temporary basis as students, and who return home from time to time, to leave their home church, if they prefer to retain their relationships with their home church. At the same time it is true that every Calvin student should have the benefit of the ecclesiastical care of one of our Grand Rapids churches while a student at Calvin. Consequently we suggest certain certificates and relationships meeting this need. Furthermore, inasmuch as the door should be left open to all students who desire to affiliate as regular members with one of the Grand Rapids churches, the suggested ruling would specifically retain this possibility.

J. HASPER, S. C.

### 53. *Requesting Financial Aid from Sister-Church.*

Seeing that the work in Canada is taking on such tremendous proportions, and seeing that the financial needs are so great, and seeing that the burdens for the Christian Reformed Church is becoming very heavy, the consistory of the Woodstock Christian Reformed Church begs Synod to consider the feasibility of asking our sister church in the Netherlands, de Gereformeerde Kerken, whether they are willing and able to help us in financing the costs of the building program in Canada.

Humbly submitted,  
 JACOB HOOGLAND, Pres.  
 ALBERT WERKEMA, Sec.

### 54. *Canadian Emergency Building Fund.*

Classis Chatham concurs with Classis Hamilton in their overture to Synod that the Canadian Emergency Building Fund be remembered and begs Synod to authorize the Church Help Fund Committee to conduct a financial drive for the cause.

JACOB HOOGLAND, S. C.

### 55. *Mission Principles and Home Missions and Evangelism.* Esteemed Brethren:

Reference is made to the well known report on Mission Principles presented to the Synod of 1952 by a special study committee. In this report there is a section entitled "Exposition of Mission Principles Respecting Evangelism" (*Acts*, 1952, pp. 194-203). Nine principles are elaborated. Regarding this material Synod declared that it approved "the spirit and general content of the Study Committee's exposition of the mission principles respecting evangelism." (*Acts*, p. 64).

The orientation of the report referred to is Indian and Foreign Missions. The principles are worked out in that context. It is evident, however, that they are relevant to Home Missions and Neighborhood Evangelism as well. Of the nine items, at least seven are directly applicable i. e., Preach-

ing and Teaching, Stimulating the Witness of Converts, Church Organization, The Autonomy of the Church, Pre- and Post-Baptismal Indoctination, Discipline, and the Spiritual Qualification and Basis of the Missionary Task. The other two items apply to Home Missions indirectly, but nonetheless very significantly, i. e., The Training of Native Workers and the Approach of the Native Population.

Classis Chicago therefore overtures Synod as follows:

- 1.) That Synod declare the "Exposition of Mission Principles Respecting Evangelism," as cited above, to have general applicability to Home Missions and Neighborhood Evangelism as well as to Indian and Foreign Missions.
- 2.) That Synod appoint a special committee to study the specific application of these principles to Home Missions and Neighborhood Evangelism, and to serve Synod with recommendations which can serve as a controlling policy for the denomination as a whole, and for the various churches, in carrying on evangelism at home.

Grounds:

- 1.) The pertinence to evangelism at home of the principles cited is now generally recognized.
- 2.) There is a wide divergence of policy in the present conduct of evangelism at home, both denominationally and locally, as touching the principles cited, e.g., in respect to responsibility for church buildings, amount of indoctrination required for baptism, extent of self-government in detached mission groups, the authority of the calling church over against the denominational board, church-centered evangelism over against the chapel method, etc. This wide divergence of policy should be resolved in the interest of developing a self-consciously Reformed methodology and eliminating a debilitating confusion and uncertainty.

By order of the Classis  
of Chicago South  
J. A. HOEKSEMA, S. C.

Done in Classis: *May 19, 1953*

**56.** *Study Committee Re Calvin College and Society Control.* Classis Grand Rapids West endorses the overture of the Alpine Avenue Consistory in which it requests Synod that inasmuch as it is not the function of the church to engage in general education except in an emergency, that Synod appoint a committee to study whether there be any practical way in which Calvin College can be turned over to a society without jeopardizing its existence or orthodoxy.

Grounds:

It is a question whether this emergency still exists because it is becoming the increasing conviction that a society of sufficient proportions can be formed now without jeopardizing the existence and orthodoxy of our school. (Cf. Synodical Acts 1926 pp. 30, 31 and Shaver p. 68.)

C. OLIVER BUUS, S. C.

**57.** *Admitting Ministers from Other Denominations.* Esteemed Brethren:

Having had the privilege of serving three years as Synodical Delegate, the undersigned humbly submits to Synod the advisability of restudying our manner of admitting ministers from other denominations. Undersigned

has been officially asked six times to approve placing names of ministers from outside the denomination on nomination. Three times the committee on which he served for these requests refused the request; three times the request was granted.

There are several undesirable features about the present arrangement, adopted 1943 and 1945 (Schaver: Polity of the Churches, Vol. II, pp. 87-89). 1, Usually only a few churches find out about the minister under consideration; and these may not even be the most needy. 2, Usually also, consistories have gone so far in their dealings with the minister under consideration that it is difficult to stop. 3, So much of the weighing of circumstances is left to the Synodical Delegates that they are easily suspected of personal bias.

If some way could be devised in harmony with our Church Polity whereby ministers who would desire to enter the ministry of our denomination could declare themselves to Synod, submit to a preliminary examination on those things which are now generally discussed with the consistory and must be accepted on report only, and then be announced to the churches many of these objectionable features would be avoided. 1, It would seem right that the initiative proceed from the minister outside the denomination rather than from one of our own consistories. 2, This would put an end to the extreme pressure being applied by consistories. We have a large number of vacancies. All signs point to a continuance of this situation for some time. More and more consistories can be expected to resort to such pressure. 3, This would give equal opportunity to all our churches to extend a call to any minister declared available.

A. A. KONING

Rev. A. A. Koning  
Syn. Del., Classis Ostfriesland  
Hollandale, Minn.

### 58. *Profanity in Armed Forces.*

The Consistory of the Summer Street Christian Reformed Church, of Passaic, New Jersey, earnestly requests the Synod, convening in June 1953, to petition the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, to curb and prevent profanity on the part of the officers and men of said Armed Forces.

Grounds:

- (1) The use of profane language by officers and men in the armed forces has become prevalent that it approaches the state of national degradation.
- (2) We are deeply conscious of God's displeasure toward this evil, therefore, we feel it our solemn duty to use our influence to eradicate it. Our citizens yearn for peace again, but we believe that the evil of profanity, as found in all branches of our armed forces, provokes Divine judgment to come upon us. God will punish the persistent transgression of His holy ordinance that requires His name to be held in reverence.
- (3) While our men obediently submit themselves to their superiors, we believe such subservience should not require them to submit to forms of address and commands in which the holy name of God and His Christ are desecrated, and the moral sensibilities of Christian men are offended.

Consistory of the Summer Street  
Christian Reformed Church  
ARTHUR VAN HOOK, Clerk

**59.** *Nominations from the Floor of Synod.*

Esteemed Brethren:

The Consistory of the Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, overtures Synod as follows:

That all nominations from the floor of Synod be submitted to a committee of preadvice where these prospective nominees shall be carefully considered before they are presented to Synod for final action.

Grounds:

- A. It may be difficult, if not indiscreet, for a delegate to give necessary information of a personal nature pertaining to a proposed nominee on the floor of Synod. This can better be considered by a committee of Synod.
- B. The consideration of all pertinent information in regard to a proposed nominee by such a committee would prevent hasty action on the floor of Synod.
- C. It is accepted procedure that any nominations presented to Synod by administrative standing committees and boards are carefully discussed by some committee of pre-advice. It is the part of wisdom that any nominations arising from the floor of Synod shall receive the same type of careful consideration. This is the democratic way of treating all nominations alike.

Respectfully submitted,  
 The Consistory of the Bethel Christian  
 Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.  
 T. YFF, President  
 CORNELIUS S. VISSER, Clerk

**60.** *Synodical Agenda*

The Consistory of the Third Christian Reformed Church submits the following overtures to the forthcoming session of Synod:

The Consistory of the Third Christian Reformed Church of Roseland is much displeased because of the late arrival of the Synodical Agenda. We did not receive our copies until May 9, 1953, too late to prepare any kind of overture in proper time for consideration of Classis. In this way the consistories cannot interest themselves in Synodical proceedings as they want and should.

For the Consistory  
 EVERETT BOS, Clerk

**61.** *Zuni Tuition Plan*

The Consistory of the Third Christian Reformed Church of Roseland urges Synod not to introduce the tuition plan at Zuni, New Mexico, in undue haste, without the sympathetic understanding of the workers.

For the Consistory  
 EVERETT BOS, Clerk

**62.** *Revision of Proposed Catechism Curriculum*

Classis Grand Rapids East, although appreciating the splendid work done by the Synodical Committee on Education, overtures the 1953 Synod to instruct the committee to revise the Catechism curriculum as proposed to 1952 Synod, in order to make it more realistic and practical.

GROUNDS:

1. The proposed program is too ambitious and too elaborate to be practical.



2. The proposed program is not realistic because it would cover too many weeks in each calendar year (39 to 43 weeks).
3. The proposed two year classes are impractical. 50% of our children would be deprived of catechetical instruction for an entire year when they are readily available and at a most impressionable age. Twelve years of work would not be completed by many of these catechumens.
4. The proposed program does not give adequate consideration to the doctrinal aspects of our educational effort. Our objective should be more intensive study of doctrine rather than a more extensive program.
5. The courses relating to Christian Life and Christian Witnessing could and should be integrated in the courses studying the Compendium.
6. It is not consistent to accept our youth into full communion at ages from 17 to 19 and then *require* them to continue catechetical instruction.

Humbly submitted,  
M. H. FABER, S. C.

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### 63. *Seminarian Internship*

Classis Kalamazoo, meeting in regular session on May 20, 1953, decided to go on record as favoring the internship of our seminarians for a year in the field of Home Missions, to the extent that it overture Synod to appoint a study committee to investigate the nature, feasibility, practicality and the possible implementation of such a program, for the following reasons:

1. We feel that a program of internship would enable our General Home Missions Committee to devote a more adequate period of time to its many small projects while in their incipient stages, in which to decide whether each project deserves continued support.
2. It would prove of inestimable value to the seminarians' course of study.
3. It would also serve as an aid to the seminarians in deciding their aptitude for the Home Mission work.

Humbly submitted,  
GARRETT H. VANDE RIET, S. C.

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### 64. *American Bible Society and R. S. V. Bible*

Classis Holland overtures Synod to investigate carefully the policy of the American Bible Society re the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

T. HEYBOER, S. C.

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### 65. *Letter to President of U. S.*

Classis Holland overtures Synod to send a letter of commendation in behalf of our denomination to the President of the United States, commending him for his deep sense of need for divine guidance as manifest in his prayer at the time of his inauguration and his general emphasis on spiritual values.

T. HEYBOER, S. C.

**66.** *Reduction of Number of Delegates to Synod*  
The Consistory of the Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids overtures Synod that the number of delegates representing the various Classes at Synod be reduced to one Minister and one Elder, and that such representation become effective for the Synod of 1954.

*Grounds:*

1. At the present time our Synod has a membership of 96 delegates, and the rapid growth of our churches in Canada and the splitting up of large Classes will continue to increase the number of delegates.
2. Large delegations to Synod have a decided tendency to reduce efficiency and tend to unwieldiness. Our sister Church in the Netherlands, a denomination much larger numerically than our own, constitutes its Synod with a delegation about half as large as our own.
3. In the past as our Classes grew in number the Synod took measures to reduce the number of delegates from each Classis.
4. Reduction in the number of delegates will greatly reduce the cost of our annual Synod, and will reduce the increasing problem of lodging the delegates properly.

S. STUK, Clerk

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The Committee on Appointments omitted the following Standing Committee from the list appearing on pages 155-157.

## MINISTERS PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

Rev. J. Beebe, Rev. F. Handlogten, Rev. J. O. Bouwsma, Mr. W. H. Boer, and Mr. Louis Heeres. The Alternates: Rev. W. Van Peurse, Rev. T. Yff, Mr. G. B. Tinholt, Mr. B. De Jager, and Mr. W. De Hoog.

R. J. Danhof, S.C.

