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A Committee of the Classis of Holland Petitioned the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church

Cornelius Vander Meulen

Albertus C. Van Raalte

Peter Oggel

John Van Vleck

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13 May 1857

Holland, Mich.

A committee of the Classis of Holland consisting of Rev. Cornelius Vander Meulen, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, Rev. Peter Oggel, and Rev. John Van Vleck petitioned the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church to issue a dispensation for Adrian Zwemer, Johannes Vande Luyster, and Gerrit Nykerk from formal theological education so that they could be licensed to serve in the Holland churches which are in great need of ministers. These men range in age from thirty-five to thirty-eight. All three men are students in the Holland Academy.

Original in the papers of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey, and in microfilm at the Joint Archives of Holland, W88-250a.

**Gardner A. Sage Library
New Brunswick Theological Seminary
New Brunswick, New Jersey**

**Reformed Church in America Archives
General Synod Papers**

“1849 Particular Synod Organizational Changes”

W88-250a

Microfilm Roll, 3P-1

At the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, Holland, Michigan

[General Synod Papers, 1849-1859]

The Classis of Holland to the General Synod of Reformed Protestant Dutch Church.

The Classis has by its Committee examined A. Zwemer, ----- Nykerk, and Johannis Van de Lyster, who wished to enter the Christian ministry, and found them in Christian character in general literary attainment, and in their views in regard to the ministry, such, that they conclude, that if a few months more is spent by them in the Academy, they will be worthy of an examination in view of admission to the ministerial office.

The Classis therefore decided to apply through its Committee to the General Synod for a dispensation on behalf of these persons, that shall empower the Classis, at such time as seems judicious to it, during the present year, to proceed to examine these brethren, and if the examination be satisfactory, to go on to license them as ministers of the Word.

These brethren are from 35 to 38 years of age and have families. They are now studying in the Holland Academy. De Lyster and Zwemer have also received some education in the Netherlands and have been about 18 months in the Academy. Nykerk has been an elder in his church for some years, and been about 18 months in the Academy.

In our judgement they are entitled to a fair examination and we have a strong hope that they may be useful among their countrymen.

At what time, during the year, they will be sufficiently prepared we cannot tell, we wish that they may have a dispensation from the full course of study required by the Constitution, and that their examination and licensure be left to the discretion of the Classis.

In view of the want of ministers in the Classis, ^{piety} and the fact that these brethren are generally considered qualified for the work as regard ~~A. [?]~~ and scriptural knowledge and the extreme difficulty of supplying the Holland churches with pastors, we hope that our request may be granted.

Mr. Nykerk has been requested by the church in which he is an elder to preach to them. Another church has inquired of the Classis whether Mr. Zwemer will be allowed to preach for them. Mr. Zwemer is also very highly commended by Rev. Van Vleck the principal of the Academy.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Van de Meulen

A. C. Van Raalte

P. Oggel

J. Van Vleck

Committee of Holland

Classis

Holland, Mich. May 13th, 1857.

[transcribed: Nella Kennedy
Feb. 2005]

RCVR
record

The Classis of Holland to the General
Synod of Reformed Protestant Dutch Church.

The Classis has by its Committee of-
-amined P. Lowema, Nykerk, and
Johannes Van de Lyster, who wished to enter
the Christian ministry, & found them in
Christian character in general literary at-
-tainments, & in their views in regard to the
ministry, such, that they conclude that if
a few months more is spent by them in
the Academy, they will be worthy of an
-examination in view of admission to the
ministerial office.

The Classis therefore decided
to apply through its Committee, to the Gene-
-ral Synod for a dispensation in behalf
of these persons, that shall empower the
Classis, at such time as seems judicious
to it, during the present year, to proceed to
examine these brethren, & if the examination
be satisfactory, to go on to license them
as Ministers of the Word.

These brethren are from 35 to 38 years
of age, & have families. They are now
studying in the Holland Academy, at Leyden
& Lowema has ^{also} received some education in

the Netherlands, & have been about 18 months in
the Academy. Nykerk has been an Elder in his
Church for some years, & been about 18 months
in the Academy. In our judgement
they are entitled to a fair examination, - we
have a strong hope that they may be useful
among their countrymen.

At what time, during the year, they will
be sufficiently prepared we cannot tell,
we wish that they may have a dispensa-
tion from the full course of study required
by the constitution, & that their examination
and licensure be left to the discretion of the
Classis.

In view of the want of ministers
in the Classis, & the fact that these brethren
are generally considered qualified for the
work so far as piety & scriptural knowledge,
& the diff. & some difficulty of supplying
the Holland Churches with pastors, we
hope that our request may be granted.

Mr. Nykerk has been requested by the
Church in which he is an Elder, to preach
to them. Another Church has inquired
of the Classis whether Mr. Lowman will
be allowed to preach for them. Mr. Lowman
is also very highly commended by the

Van Vleet the Principal of the Academy.

Respectfully submitted

G. Van der Meulen.

H. Van Raalte, Committee

P. Opper } of Holland

J. Van Vleet } Classis.

Holland, which is May 15th 1857.