March 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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Records, 1892-1978. 3.25 linear ft.

Abstract

Ninth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was organized February 23, 1892, with seventy-seven communicant members. The new church, located on the corner of Watson Street and Delony Avenue, was dedicated September 15, 1892. The church disbanded October 29, 1978. Ninth Reformed Church was the original sponsor of The Other Way, a community west-side ministry. Ministers who served Ninth Reformed Church were: Rev. H. K. Boer, 1892-1895; Rev. J. W. Te Winkel, 1895-1899; Rev. H. P. Schuurman, 1900-1903, 1929-1931; Rev. C. Heines, 1903-1907; Rev. Rense H. Joldersma, 1907-1909; Rev. Anthony Karreman, 1910-1914; Rev. John Van Westenberg, 1915-1918; Rev. John A. Van Dyk, 1918-1923; Rev. Gerard M. Van Pernis, 1924-1929; Rev. Lester J. Kuyper, 1932-1936; Rev. Rensa Dykstra, 1937-1947; Rev. John Minnema, 1948-1961; Rev. Richard Ter Maat, 1964-1973; Rev. Harry P. Mencarelli, 1974-1978. The collection includes consistory minutes from 1892-1964 in six bound volumes. Early minutes are written in Dutch and starting with June 1, 1920 (Book 4), the records are written in English. Anniversary information, financial reports, Sunday school, society and mission records, and communion pitcher and cups.

Accession No: W93-1075
Provenance: Ninth Reformed Church
Donor: Ninth Reformed Church
Photographs: 2 images (Box 2); 1 oversized
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, October 2002

History

Ninth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was organized February 23, 1892, with seventy-seven communicant members. The new church, located on the corner of Watson Street and Delony Avenue, was dedicated September 15, 1892. This building was still in use in 1942, when the church celebrated its 50th anniversary. Ninth Reformed Church celebrated its 75th anniversary May 5-7, 1967. The community changes brought many Roman Catholic families, but Ninth Reformed Church adapted itself to inner-city ministry.

The church disbanded October 29, 1978. Ninth Reformed Church was the original sponsor of The Other Way, a community west-side ministry. Its former pastor, Rev. Richard Ter Maat, is now the pastoral director of The Other Way.

Scope and Content

Ninth Reformed Church collection includes consistory minutes from 1892-1964 in six bound volumes. Early minutes are written in Dutch and starting with June 1, 1920 (Book 4), the records are written in English. Anniversary information, financial reports, Sunday School, society and mission records.

Container List

Box 1

Anniversary
- Fiftieth, February 1942
- Seventy-fifth, May 1967

Bulletins, January 25; February 5, 1925

Congregational Meeting, Pastor’s Report, 1965, 1966

Consistorial Report, 1906, 1929, 1941

Consistory Minutes, 1992-1964
- February 23, 1892-March 5, 1900, Book 1 (bound volume) (Dutch)
- April 2, 1900-February 1, 1904, Book 2 (bound volume) (Dutch)
- February 29, 1904-December 22, 1909, Book 3 (bound volume) (Dutch)
- January 17, 1910-April 17, 1922, Book 4 (bound volume) (Dutch/English)
- April 24, 1922-March 24, 1924, Book 5 (bound volume) (English)
- April 14, 1947-September 27, 1964, Book 6 (bound volume) (English)

Financial Reports, 1917-1972 (scattered)

The Gleaners Society Minutes, 1934-1943 (3-ring binder)

Guest Book, 1977

Ladies Adult Bible Class Minutes, 1926-1944 (bound volume)

Member Records, 1892-1895 (bound volume) (Dutch)

Men’s Mission Society Minutes, 1911-1921 (bound volume)

Missions
- Arabian, 1951
- Bhakti, South India, n.d.

Box 2

Missions (cont.), India, n.d.

Sunday School, Minutes, Teacher Meetings, 1903-1912, 1915-1929

Survey Sketch, 1969

Photographs
- Ninth Reformed Church, 1892 (1 image)
- Chang Chow Girls School, 1938 (WTS Oversized photographs)

Box 3
Objects
    Communion Pitcher and Cups (3 items)