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W94-1185. Michigan, Holland. Third Reformed Church. Records, 1871-[ongoing]. 16.00 linear ft.

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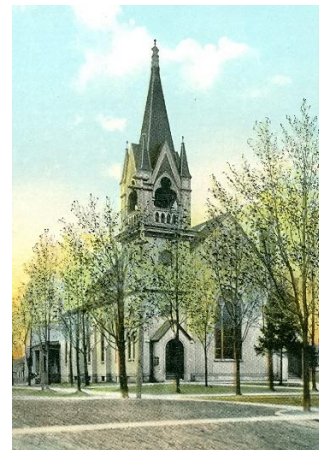
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W94-1185. Michigan, Holland. Third Reformed Church.
Records, 1871-[ongoing]. 16.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Third Reformed Church was formed in 1867 at the encouragement of its mother church, First Reformed Church. The collection contains anniversary materials, minutes of the consistory, (both in Dutch and in English), newsletters from 1950 to 2006, society records, membership records, Sunday School records, church bulletins from 1915-1959, photographs and slides, and Boy Scouts records.



Accession No: W94-1185
Provenance: Third Reformed Church
Custody Agreement: Third Reformed Church
Photographs: 65 images (47 photographs, 3 prints, Box 7; 1 Oversized; 14 digital)
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, December 1995
Elaine Bruins, February 2009

History

In 1867, a group of people living on the west side of Holland left First Reformed Church to form the Third Reformed Church. This division was encouraged and assistance was given by the mother church. The first building was completed in 1868; two days after dedicating their church, the congregation welcomed their first pastor, the Reverend Jacob Vander Meulen.

After the loss of the church building in the Holland fire of 1871, and severe damage to the framework of their new structure in 1873, they persevered and built a temporary structure, which was used until November of 1874 when they dedicated their new building. The congregation worships in the restored church at 12th Street and Pine Avenue at the present time. A large educational wing was added in 1994-1995. Seventeen senior pastors have served the church to the present day.

Dr. Elton J. Bruins has written a very complete history of Third Reformed Church entitled *The Americanization of a Congregation*, which is available in the archives and in area libraries.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of anniversary materials, consistory minutes, newsletters, society records and church bulletins. It should be noted that the consistory minutes include minutes of congregational meetings, elders meetings, and financial reports. The newsletter's name became *Third Generation* in 1980. As for the Ladies Bible Class, 1911-1929, it was called Ladies Adult Bible Class from 1930 to 1946. The word (Adult) was used on the first folder to keep all records together. The researcher should note also that the constitution for the Missionary Group of the Women's Guild is included with the minutes. Bulletins were not printed during the years 1933-1936.

Container List

Box 1

“Address,” Rev. William R. Van Kersen, (draft and final copies), 1942
“Address,” Dr. Wynand Wichers, 1942
Adult Bible Class, 1946-1949
Archives, “Inventory of the Records and Archives of the Third Reformed Church, 2010”
Art Collection Inventory, 2012
“Artist’s Conception of Proposed New Chapel,” n.d.
Boy Scouts of America
 Applications, 1935-1949-1966 (3 folders)
 Family Visitation Reports, 1955, n.d.
 Individual Records, 1951-1956
 Roster of Membership, 1957-1970
 Troop Charter, 1966, 1970
Bulletins, 1955, 1976, 1978
Centennial Anniversary, 1967
Centennial Anniversary Pageant, 1967
Certificate, American Sunday School Union, 1957
Church Council, 1938-1951
Commemorative Booklets, 1917, 1942, 1952, 1974
Consistory
 Correspondence, 1969-1978
 Minutes, 1871-1895 (Dutch) (1 bound volume)
 Minutes, 1907-1917 (1 bound volume)
 Minutes, 1908-1915 (1 bound volume) (duplicate)
 Minutes, 1918-1930 (4 folders)

Box 2

Consistory (cont.)
 Minutes (cont.), 1931-1964 (21 folders)

Box 3

Consistory (cont.)
 Minutes (cont.), 1965-1980 (22 folders)

Box 4

Cornerstone Laying, 1968
Correspondence, Letters of Greeting, 75th Anniversary, 1942
Cradle Roll, 1909-1951
Essays, 75th anniversary, 1942 (11 essays)

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Financial Statements, 1897-1923 (Third Reformed Church)
Gifts and Memorials Committee Report, 1995-2005
Girls' League for Service
 Minutes, Nov. 1946-March, 1951 (includes constitution)
 Newspaper Clippings, 1933-1941
Gleaners Class
 History, 1915-1940 (25th anniversary)
 Minutes, November 1915-June, 1946 (3 bound volumes)
 Minutes, September, 1946-May, 1964 (2 folders)
Happy Givers Class, n.d.
Historical Sketches, 1899, n.d.
Hymn Fest with Brian Wren, April 18, 1993
Information on Former Members, 1942
Intermediate Christian Endeavor
 Membership and Minutes, 1912-1916 (2 folders)
 Membership and Minutes, 1916-1923 (1 bound volume)
Ladies Adult Bible Class
 Attendance Records, 1943-1948 (1 bound volume)
 Financial Records, 1911-1946 (2 folders, 2 bound volumes)
Ladies Aid Society
 Attendance Records, 1899-1946 (4 folders, includes 4 bound volumes)
 Constitution and Minutes, 1898-1903
 Correspondence, 1946, n.d.
 Financial Records, 1915-1931 (3 folders, 3 bound volumes)

Box 5

Ladies Aid Society (cont.)
 Financial Records (cont.), 1932-1955 (1 bound volume)
 Member Contribution Record, 1930-1953 (1 bound volume)
 Minutes, 1911-1945 (6 folders, 6 bound volumes)
 Minutes and Financial Records, 1940-1961 (1 bound volume)
Lecture, "Summertime at Third," by Nella Kennedy, May 2006
Membership Directories, 1967-2005 (3 folders)
Men's Brotherhood Class and Men's Bible Class, 1928-1946
Men's League, Minutes, 1933-1950 (1 bound volume)
Missionary Group of the Women's Guild
 Correspondence, 1958-1966
 Minutes, 1956-1965
 Script of historical drama by Nella Kennedy about Third Church Women's
 Missionary Union and RCA China Mission set in 1901, 2013
 Year Books 1963-1969

Box 6

Newsletters, 1950-1979 (7 folders)

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Newsletters, "Third Generation," 1980-1990 (6 folders)

Box 7

Newsletters, "Third Generation" (cont.), 1991-2006 (16 folders)
Newspaper clippings, 1951, 1952, 1967, 1992, 1994, 2003, 2018
Newspapers, *Holland Daily News*, "Semi-Centennial, 1897" (4 items)
One hundred twenty-fifth Anniversary Materials, 1992-1993
Organ Dedication, September 1982
Ottawa County, Abstract of Title (Lot 3. Block 10) A. C. Van Raalte to Third Church,
1867
Pamphlet, "A Self-guided Tour of the Historic Third Reformed Church," 1992-1993,
2002
Photographs
 Building (exterior and interior), 1870, 1901, 1961, n.d. (8 photos, 3 prints)
 Cappon, Isaac and Elizabeth, n.d. (2 images)
 Church Groups, 1912, 1917, 1920s, 1925, 1940, 1945, n.d. (7 images)
 Church Members, n.d. (4 images)
 Church Pastors, 1868-1952 (12 images)
 Columbia Memorial Church, Colony, Oklahoma, 1909 (1 image)
 Missionaries supported by Third Church, n.d. (6 images)
 Plasman, Derick and Henrietta, Charter Members, n.d. (2 images)
 Seventy-fifth Anniversary Dinner, 1942 (4 images)
 Van Putten Family, n.d. (1 image)
Publication, *Inland Architecture*, "Reclaiming the Past II," pages 58-65, 1998

Box 8

Plaque, Third Reformed Church, 1967
Promotional Materials, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1987, n.d.
Property Deed, 1868
Renovation, 1951
Sermon, "Living with Vision," 125th Anniversary, Elton J. Bruins, July 30, 1972
Service Men and Women, October 1945
Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, 2013-2016
Slides
 Bicentennial Celebration, (USA) July 1976
 Chapel Windows (2000) and Miscellaneous (1953)
 Christmas, 1954, 1955
 Church Building (exterior and interior), 1954, 1955, 1956, 1961
 Easter choir practice and Family Nite, 1955
 Miscellaneous, 1955, 1958-1961 (3 folders)
 Reception for Hope College students, 1955
 Stained Glass Sanctuary Windows, 1967, 2000
 Van Bunte family, Rev. Russell, 1959
 Walvoord family, Rev. Christian, 1955-1961

Third Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
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Slides, Lantern, Church sanctuary, 1950(?)

Special Education Ministry, n.d.

Stained Glass Windows, 1944-1946

Sunday School

Film (16mm), Sunday School Picnic, 1938

Financial Records, 1922-1931 (1 bound volume)

“History of the Sunday School,” Isaac Cappon, n.d. (Dutch with English translation)

History, A. Visscher, 1905

Minutes, 1885, 1888-1902, n.d.

Newspaper Article, 1941

Paper, “The Boys’ World,” 1927, 1933

Records, 1875-1891

Records, 1916-1941

Videotape Cassette, “To Know Him and To Make Him Known,” 1993

“Window Sermons,” 1951 (a series of sermons by Rev. Christian Walvoord, STM, during 1950-1951 church year based upon the ten stained glass windows in the sanctuary)

Women’s Mission Auxiliary

Records, 1933-54 (3 bound volumes, 1 folder)

Financial Records, 1953-1955 (1 bound volume)

Women’s Missionary Society

Attendance Records, 1929-1954 (1 bound volume)

Financial Records, 1937-1944 (1 bound volume)

Box 9

Women’s Missionary Society (cont.)

Minutes, August, 1896 – November, 1955 (4 bound volumes)

Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor

Constitution, 1889 (1 bound volume)

Minutes, 1889-1911 (6 bound volumes)

Minutes, 1914-1918 (2 bound volumes)

Minutes, 1935-1943

Miscellaneous, 1915-1925, n.d.

Box 10

Church Bulletins, 1915-1932 (18 bound volumes)

Note: Bulletins were not printed during the years 1933-1936

Box 11

Church Bulletins (cont.), 1937-1949 (13 bound volumes)

Box 12

Church Bulletins (cont.), 1950-1959 (10 bound volumes)

Box 13

Membership Records (A–T) (index cards) n.d.

Box 14

Membership Records (V–Z) (index cards) n.d.

Box 15

Boy Scouts of America

Badges (13 items), 1936-1970

Memorabilia (30 items), 1960-1970

Pins (12 items), n.d.

Robert Walters Memorabilia (12 items), 1961-1968

Oversized (Stored in WTS Oversized Cabinet)

Photocopies of original 1967 technical drawings of Third Reformed Church and
surrounding grounds (11 items)

Photograph of Henry Geerlings (1 image)