1915

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CALENDAR

1916

January 5..............Recitations begin
January 27..............Prayer for Colleges
January 29..............Winter Examinations
March 8..............Prayer for crops
May 9, 10..............Final Examinations
May 9..............Meeting of Board of Superintendents
May 10..............Commencement Exercises in the evening
September 21...........Entrance Examinations
September 22...........Recitations begin
November 30-December 4 Thanksgiving Recess
December 21...........Christmas Recess begins

1917

January 4..............Work resumed
January 25..............Prayer for Colleges
January 31..............Winter Examinations
March 14..............Prayer for crops
May 8, 9..............Final Examinations
May 8..............Meeting of Board of Superintendents
May 9..............Commencement Exercises in the evening
BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENTS

EX-OFFICIO

John W. Beardslee, D. D., LL. D., President of the Faculty
Ame Vennema, D. D., - President of Hope College
From the Synod of New York
From the Synod of Albany
From the Synod of New Brunswick
1918 Rev. I. W. Gowen, D. D. - Weekawken, N. J.
From the Synod of Chicago,
1917 Rev. John Engelsman - Orange City, Iowa
1918 *Elder Gerrit John Kollen - Holland, Mich.,
1919 Elder Cornelius Dosker - Grand Rapids, Mich.

From the Classes

Grand River Rev. Evert Troost 1916
Holland Rev. Benjamin Hoffman 1918
Illinois Rev. J. P. Winter 1918
Pleasant Prairie Rev. John G. Theilken 1918
Iowa Rev. Fred Lubbers 1919
Michigan Rev. Tennis Muilenberg 1919
Pella Rev. Anthony Rosendal 1920
Dakota
Cascades
Wisconsin
Germania Rev. Henry Huenemann 1920

Officers of the Board

Rev. Benjamin Hoffman - - - - President
Rev. Peter Moerdyke - - - - Stated Clerk

* Died Sept. 5, 1915.
THE FACULTY

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, D. D., LL. D.,
President of the Faculty
In charge of Old Testament Exegesis
26 East Twelfth Street.

REV. JAMES F. ZWEMER, D. D.
(On leave of absence 1915-1916)
Professor of Practical Theology
In charge of the Finances of the Seminary
64 West Fourteenth Street.

REV. MATTHEW KOLYN, D. D.,
Professor of Historical Theology
66 West Thirteenth Street.

REV. EVART J. BLEKKINK, D. D.,
Professor of Systematic Theology
303 College Avenue.

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, Jr., Ph. D., D. D.,
Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature
Secretary of the Faculty
26 East Twelfth Street.

REV. JOHN E. KUIZENGA
Acting Professor of Practical Theology
4 East Fourteenth Street.
SPECIAL LECTURERS
1914-1915

MISS IDA SCUDDER, India’s Needs.
MRS. WALTER C. ROE, The Indian Mission.
REV. HENRY P. DE PREE, Present Opportunities in China.
REV. EDWARD CLARK, Rescue Mission Work.
MR. JOHN T. ROBERTSON, Rescue Mission Work.
DR. JAMES I. GOOD, John Huss. The Hussites and the Reformed Churches.
REV. SETH VANDERWERF, De Beteekenis der Inwendige Zending. De Inwendige Zending der Gereformeerde Kerk in Amerika.
REV. M. E. BROEKSTRA, Kerkelijke Toestanden in Nederland.
DR. S. PARKES CADMAN, Reaching Men.
PROF. E. D. DIMNENT, The Pulpit from the Viewpoint of the Pew.
DR. A. BRUSKE, The Strength and Weakness of the Modern Pulpit.
REV. G. HEKHUIS, The Successful Country Church.
PROF. G. B. MCCRACKY, Some Rational Proofs of Christianity.
DR. CHARLES WISHART, The Sons of Martha and the Sons of Mary.

Committee on Reception of Students and Examinations

Rev. Benjamin Hoffman, Rev. Teunis W. Muilenberg,
Rev. Albert Vandenberg, Rev. Peter Moerdyke,
Elder Cornelius Dosker, President Ame Vennema and the Faculty.

General Synod’s Permanent Committee on the Finances of the Western Theological Seminary

REV. JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, President.
REV. JAMES F. ZWEMER, Secretary and Treasurer.
MR. JOHN A. WILTERDINK
MR. JOHN A. TROMPEN.
MR. TEUNIS PRINS
MR. BAREND DOSKER.
STUDENTS

Senior Class

John Bovenkerk........................................Holland Hope College, 1913.
Clarence Paul Dame, A. B.............................Chicago, Ill. Hope College, 1913.
Lambertus Hekhuis, A. B..............................Overisel Hope College, 1913.
George G. Heneveld, A. B.............................Holland Hope College, 1913.
George Benjamin Scholten, A. B.....................Inwood, Iowa Hope College, 1911.

Middle Class

Jacob Jonathan Althuis, A. B........................Holland Hope College 1914.
George William Bonte, A. B..........................Alexander, Iowa Hope College, 1913.
Harry Hoffs, A. B....................................Hospers, Iowa Hope College 1914.
Robert Kroodsma, A. B................................Zeeland Hope College 1914.
Henry Poppen, A. B. ..................... Sioux Center, Iowa
Hope College, 1914.

*Henry Van Eyck Stegeman, A. B. .................. Holland
Hope College, 1912.

John Cornelius Van Wyk, A. B. ........ Orange City, Iowa
Grinnell College, 1912.

H. Michael Veenschoten, A. B. ............ Boyden, Iowa
Hope College 1914.

**Junior Class**

Hope College, 1915.

Marinus Cook .................................. Holland
Luppio Potgetter, A. B. ........................ Oregon, Ill.
Hope College 1914.

Minor Stegenga, A. B. ....................... North Holland
Hope College, 1915.

Charles Anton Stoppels, A. B. ............. Muskegon
Hope College, 1915.

Henry Daniel Ter Keurst, A. B. ............ Hamilton
Hope College 1914.

**Special**

Klaas Prinsen .................................. Chicago, Ill.

**Summary**

Senior Class .................................. 12
Middle Class ................................... 9
Junior Class ................................... 6
Special ........................................ 1

Total 28
COURSES OF STUDY

EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY

HEBREW

Junior Class

Course 1. *Elements of Hebrew Grammar* and word formation, based on selected readings from the Pentateuch and the books of Samuel. Four hours a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Middle and Senior Classes

Course 2. *Hebrew Poetry*, its external form and exegesis. Two hours a week, first semester. The President.

Course 3. *Minor Prophets* with the text of Amos, Jonah and Malachi and a historical review of the period. Two hours a week, second semester. The President.

Course 4. *Historical Books*. Selections are read in class. A study is made of the chronology and of the relations of Israel with foreign nations. (Not offered in 1915-1916.)

Course 5. *Messianic Prophecy*, the principles of its exegesis and the development of the Messianic idea. (Not offered in 1915-1916.)

Senior Class


Course 7. *Old Testament Introduction*. One hour a week, second semester. The President;
GREEK

Junior Class

Course 1. Gospel of Mark. This course is an introduction to New Testament Greek. One hour a week throughout the year. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.


Middle Class


Course 4. Epistles to the Corinthians and the Church Life of the First Century. Two hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Course 5. Epistle of James and its lessons for present day life. Two hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Senior Class

Course 6. Epistle to the Romans and the teaching of Paul. Three hours a week, first semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

Course 7. Studies in the Life of Christ. Three hours a week, second semester. Prof. J. W. Beardslee, Jr.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Junior Class

Course 1. Sacred History. A careful study of the history of God's revelation to Israel during the period of
the Old Testament dispensation. Textbook, lectures and theses. Three hours a week, first semester.

Course 2. Intertestamentary History. One hour a week, first semester.


Course 4. Church History. The Ancient Period. Textbook, lectures and theses. Two hours a week, second semester.

Middle Class

Course 5. Church History. The Middle Period and the first part of the History of the Reformation, to the Peace of Westphalia. Textbook, lectures and theses. Four hours a week throughout the year.

Senior Class

Course 6. Church History. The Modern Period, beginning at the Peace of Westphalia. The rise and development of Protestant Churches in Europe. Special courses on the history of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands and the history of the Reformed Church in America. Textbooks, lectures and theses. Two hours a week, first semester; three hours a week, second semester.

Course 7. Missions, their history and theory. Textbook and lectures. One hour a week, first semester.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Junior Class

Course 1. Encyclopedia and Methodology. Two hours a week, first semester.

Course 2. Authority. Two hours a week, first semester.
Course 3. **Theology.** The tri-personality of God. The Attributes. The Decrees. Creation. Providence. The Spiritual Order. Four hours a week, second semester.

**Middle Class**


**Senior Class**

Course 5. **Theology,** continued. The Doctrine of Last Things. One hour a week, first semester.
Course 6. **Christian Ethics.** Three hours a week, first semester.
Course 7. **Modernism.** One hour a week, second semester.
Course 8. **Confessional Theology.** One hour a week, second semester.
Course 9. **Review** of the entire system of Dogmatic Theology. Two hours a week, second semester.

**PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**

**Junior Class**

Course 1. **The Church:** its institution, nature, offices, function. Special consideration of the work of the minister: his call, qualifications, duties, dangers, habits. One hour a week throughout the year.
Course 2. **Principles of Interpretation:** general and special, with studies in the English Bible. One hour a week throughout the year.
Course 3. *Theory and Practice of Preaching: material of the sermon, its logical and rhetorical treatment; delivery; inductive study of sermons; outline and sermon writing; preaching before class and private drill. Two hours a week throughout the year.

Middle Class

Course 4. Public Worship: history of worship; psychological and doctrinal foundation; liturgical and non-liturgical service; conduct of public worship, use of Scriptures in worship, public prayer, etc.; Reformed Church liturgy; administration of the sacraments. Four hours a week, first semester.

Course 5. Pastoral Care of the Individual: normal religious development, its elements, stages and types; pathological forms; stated and occasional visiting. One hour a week, second semester.

Course 6. Religious Education: history, theory, psychology, pedagogy; special application to catechetical and Sunday School work; children’s sermons. Two hours a week, second semester.

Course 7. *Preaching: narrative, expository, occasional sermons; invention and style; class preaching and individual drill. One hour a week, second semester.

Senior Class

Course 8. The Church in the World Today: social and religious conditions; evangelism and personal work; the country church; some city and national problems. Three hours a week, first semester; two hours a week, second semester.
Course 9. **Church Leadership**: constitution, government, programs and efficiency. One hour a week, second semester.

Course 10. *Preaching*: doctrinal, serial, expository preaching; outlines and sermons. One hour a week, second semester.

*In addition to the regular courses in preaching, the middle and senior students preach at least twice a year before the student body, the professor of Practical Theology and at least one of the other professors being present. The student is subject to criticism from all present.*
THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Calendar.—The Seminary opens on the third Thursday in September, at ten o'clock A. M., when the committee meets for the reception of students, and closes on the second Wednesday in May, with the Annual Commencement, at which addresses are made by two students and a member of the Board of Superintendents appointed for that purpose.

Conditions of Entrance.—Every applicant is required to present a certificate of church membership and one of literary qualifications. Graduates of a college of recognized standing, whose course of study includes a sufficient amount of Greek, Latin and Philosophy, will be admitted upon presentation of the usual credentials.

Applicants are expected to present a letter of Church membership with their testimonials.

Students are accepted from any denomination of Christians.

The requirements of the Constitution in regard to students preparing for the ministry in the Reformed Church are as follows:

"Every person contemplating the work of the ministry, before he commences his course of Theological studies, shall furnish satisfactory evidence of his being a member, in full communion and in good standing, of a Reformed Protestant Church; of his piety, abilities and literary attainments; and thereupon shall be admitted into one of the Theological Schools; and, during the prosecution of his studies there, shall be subject to the
rules and regulations thereof; and, when he shall have completed the prescribed course and term of Theological studies, shall be admitted to an examination according to the regulations of the Schools, as established by the General Synod; and, if found qualified, shall receive a Professorial Certificate to that effect, which shall entitle him to an examination for licensure before the Classis to which he belongs.”—Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 2.

Attendance.—It is expected that every student will be present punctually at the daily chapel service, at all the class exercises, and at every other regular appointment of the Seminary.

Any student who finds it necessary to be absent from any Seminary exercise is expected to obtain from the President permission for absence.

Examinations.—At the close of the year an oral examination of all the classes is held before the Board of Superintendents on Tuesday and Wednesday of Commencement week. Special written examinations are held in midwinter as the work requires. The papers of these written examinations are transmitted for approval to a committee of the Board of Superintendents.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The organization and conduct of the seminary allows a great deal of opportunity for student activity and initiative. This gives opportunity for leadership, complete development and pleasant, desirable diversion.

Religious.—If one views only recent years, he discovers a commendable determination among the students to keep their religious life strong and vital. Regular class and Dormitory prayer-meetings are held, and once a week students and faculty meet for the same purpose. Excellent churches in the city welcome the students to full participation in all their church work. Special classes for students are held in these churches. All these agencies help to keep the religious life of the students healthful and uplifting.

Social.—The Dormitory group is large enough to give real student life and to develop leaders, as may be seen in the management of several successful student enterprises, among them the excellent lecture course. This has been entirely financed by the students themselves and is due to their own initiative. The Faculty give an annual reception, and the students give another in the Dormitory.

Athletic.—Excellent tennis courts, adjacent to the dormitory with its baths attract most of the students to interesting intramural contests, giving wholesome ex-
exercise during the fall and spring. Basket ball in the college gymnasium gives winter exercise. In recent years the seminary has had a good basket ball team.

Prizes.—Mr. Cornelius Dosker of Grand Rapids has established two mission prizes, a first prize of twenty-five dollars and a second prize of ten dollars, to be awarded each year to those students of the senior class who shall prepare and deliver the best sermons on a missionary theme.

Mr. William Olive of this city offers three special prizes of fifteen dollars, ten dollars and five dollars respectively to those students of the Seminary who shall during the year of 1915-1916 prepare the best essays on the theme, "Why should a minister buy life insurance."

Mr. Peter Semelink of Vriesland has established a scholarship of $2,000, the income of which is each year awarded to a student of the Seminary, preference being given to one who is preparing for work on the mission field.

Mission Work.—A study of Missions is included in the regular work of the Seminary. In addition to this, the Adelphic Society gives special attention to the subject of Missions, not only by placing Missionary topics upon its program, but by appointing a committee whose duty it is to receive annual contributions from the professors and students. By a vote of the society these are divided between the Foreign and Domestic Mission Boards and the Arabian Mission. As a practical effort and as a labor of love the students have during the past two years, supplied two mission stations, East Holland and Beechwood, with preaching, family visitation and catechetical instruction,
The Adelphic Y. M. C. A.—A gathering of Professors and Students is held every Tuesday evening at the home of one of the Professors. It stands for social, intellectual and spiritual development. Devotional exercises occupy the first half hour, essays and general discussions follow, after which a brief time is spent in social enjoyment. This meeting constitutes one of the most attractive features of our Seminary life.

Student Preaching.—Members of the Middle and Senior classes have frequent opportunities to preach in our mission churches and where special service is needed. The assignment of students for such purposes is left by the General Synod with the Faculty, who endeavor to afford all the students an opportunity to preach. It will greatly facilitate our effort if the churches needing such supplies will apply directly to the Faculty.

During the summer vacation students may be assigned to mission fields. In this way they are enabled to acquire experience in conducting church work as well as supplement their own income.

PROFESSORATE

The intention of the Reformed Church to establish Educational Institutions which would provide for her young people in the rapidly growing West, found expression in Hope College, which was incorporated in the year 1866. Seven members of the first graduating class petitioned the General Synod for permission to continue their theological studies at the College. Synod granted the request and arranged for the Professors of the College to give the necessary instruction. In 1867 the Rev.
Cornelius E. Crispell was formally elected "Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology at Hope College," and with assistance from the other professors he was directed to give theological instruction in connection with his duties in the College. For a supervising body, Synod divided its Board of Superintendents of the Seminary at New Brunswick, which was composed of one delegate from each Classis throughout the Church, into an Eastern and Western Section, the Western to have charge of theology at Hope College.

Its work was greatly embarrassed by the lack of money, and its relation to the Synod was not according to the traditions of the Church. This finally led to a suspension of Theology in 1877, the Synod at the same time emphatically assuring the western churches it would gladly restore the school as soon as endowment could be secured.

In 1884, endowment for one professorship having been secured, mainly through the sacrifice of the western churches, Synod elected the late Rev. Dr. Nicholas M. Steffens as Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology, with the Rev. Peter Moordyke and the Rev. Henry E. Dosker as temporary Lectors.

Dr. Steffens resigned his position in 1895, and the late Rev. Dr. Egbert Winter was chosen his successor. He resigned in 1904 and the late Rev. Gerrit H. Dubbink was elected his successor, filling his position until his death in July, 1910. The Board of Superintendents requested Dr. Steffens to take charge until the Synod should meet in June, 1911, when he was chosen professor and remained in active service until his death, July 24, 1912.
Since that time the Rev. Dr. Blekkink has occupied the position; for one year on appointment of the Board and since 1913 by election of General Synod.

In 1888 a second professorship was established for Biblical Languages and Literature. The Rev. Dr. John W. Beardslee was elected professor and remained until 1913 when, at his own request, he was declared Emeritus. The Rev. John W. Beardslee, Jr., was elected as his successor.

In 1894 a third professorship was established for Historical Theology and the Rev. Henry E. Dosker was elected professor. He resigned in 1903. The Rev. Dr. Nicholas M. Steffens was elected his successor. He remained until 1911 when he was transferred to the chair of Systematic Theology. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Kolyn was chosen as Lector in 1910 and by the General Synod made a permanent professor in 1911.

In 1907 a fourth professorship, that of Practical Theology, was established and the Rev. James F. Zwemer elected professor.

BUILDINGS

Semelink Family Hall.—For nearly thirty years the Seminary had no home but occupied two very unsuitable rooms in a building on the College Campus, originally built as a residence for Professor Oggel. But in 1895 God moved the heart of Mr. Peter Semelink, of the Vriesland church, to erect a fine brick building, now known as the “Semelink Family Hall,” furnished with modern conveniences, and containing five excellent lecture rooms and a commodious chapel.

The Library.—The new Library building is now completed and open for use. Its dimensions are about
forty-eight by fifty-four feet. It has a basement well lighted and provided with book-shelves for the storage of a large number of books. Within is a wide hall having on one side a large reading room with reference library, including the leading theological encyclopedias and magazines, besides general works of reference. On the opposite side of the hall is a room designed for research work and committee meetings. These rooms as well as their furniture are of solid oak. Back of them is the stack-room with shelf-room for about 25,000 volumes and so arranged as to admit of a second story for shelves when necessary.

Already about 11,000 books are on the shelves with card catalogues and other facilities for consultation. The students also have free access to the large library of Hope College, and to the public library of the city of Holland.

Valuable donations were received during the year from the Rev. Dr. Henry E. Cobb, from the Rev. Henry D. B. Mulford, from our Board of Publication and Bible School Work, from the family of the late Rev. Dr. George S. Bishop, from the family of the late Rev. John A. Despelder, from Hope College Library, and from the President of the Faculty.

Dormitory.—The common life of the Seminary finds its fullest realization in the new dormitory, a splendid building of brick and stone standing on the highest part of the campus. Along both the first and second stories of either side of the building extends a broad porch. The spacious entrance hall is fitted with wall seats beneath the stairs. At right and left are the two reception rooms which with the hall between form an ideal gathering place for the students and their friends. Here are tables and newspapers. Throughout the building the woodwork is of oak, the floors of maple. There
are thirty student rooms, four of which are arranged en suite for the joint occupancy of two students. These rooms are large, each with its artistic table, study chair and rocker and bookcase built in the wall. In each room is an alcove, to which both hot and cold water are piped. Each Spring before the close of the school the students of the two upper classes, in order of classes, draw for the choice of their next year's rooms. New students are assigned rooms in order of their application. In the basement there is a large room equipped with gymnastic apparatus, and both shower and tub baths are provided. The corridors are roomy, well lighted and ventilated. A fee of five dollars per year is charged each occupant.

**Power Plant.**—The physical usefulness of the Seminary is much enhanced by the Power Plant, a neat red brick building where steam is generated and piped to all the buildings and where the electric light and water systems have their center. This saves the other buildings much noise and dirt, and greatly diminishes the fire risk.

**RESOURCES**

The Seminary desires to see its teaching force supported partly from the income of a limited endowment, and partly by the annual contributions of churches and friends.

In accordance with this idea an endowment has been secured for the three professorships first organized, amounting to thirty thousand dollars for each chair. An endowment of ten thousand dollars has also been secured for incidental expenses, and of one thousand dollars for a Library fund.
Since the reestablishment of Theological Instruction at Holland, in 1884, all the money needed for the salaries of the Lectors temporarily employed and for the payment in full of the salaries of the unendowed and partially endowed Chairs, has been regularly provided from the Salary Fund, to which nearly all the Churches in the West devote an annual free-will offering.

Out of this fund the Salary of the Professor of Practical Theology is paid, and it also provides for whatever deficits may occur in the income from the endowment of the other professorships.

As proof that this Salary Fund is a living link between the Seminary and the Churches and justifies the wisdom of thus investing a part of our Endowment in the affections of our constituency, it may be stated that this Fund has grown from $600 to the present income of $2,500 annually, and that the amount given during these twenty years to this Fund, to supplement the income of the annual Endowment, now aggregates the grand total sum of $29,500.

The salary of the fourth professorship is now met from the contributions of the churches. As soon as its endowment shall have been provided, these contributions can be used to secure the services of a fifth professor. This is imperatively necessary. At present the teaching of both Old and New Testaments is in the care of a single professorship.
FORM OF BEQUEST

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America..................... Dollars for the maintenance and support of the Theological Seminary of said Church, located at Holland, Michigan, and they are to invest the principal and apply the interest to said purpose.

Or

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America..................... Dollars for the establishment of a Professorship in the Theological Seminary of said Church, located at Holland, Michigan, to be named:

Or

I give unto the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America..................... Dollars to the fund for the purchase of books for the Library of the Western Theological Seminary, located at Holland, Mich.