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Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Personal papers of Henry Bast, minister of the Reformed Church in America, professor at Hope College from 1939-1944, professor at Western Theological Seminary (WTS) from 1956-1963, and Temple Time speaker from 1952-1972. Contains radio messages, sermons, articles and his 1933 WTS graduation address. Also includes doctoral dissertation for the University of Michigan by Jacoba Dalebout regarding Bast’s radio sermons.

Accession No.: W88-0007
Provenance: Henry Bast
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Processed by: Chad A. Boorsma, December 1991

Biography

Henry Bast was born in Zaalbommel, the Netherlands, on May 6, 1906. He immigrated to America in 1909 and grew up near Fennville, Michigan. Bast graduated from Hope College in 1930 and from Western Theological Seminary three years later. He received a doctorate from Hope College in 1956.

Dr. Bast’s first charge was at the Richmond Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He held this position until 1939, when he accepted the opportunity to become a professor of Bible at Hope College. In 1944, Henry Bast accepted the call to become the pastor of the Bethany Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. He remained Bethany’s pastor for 12 years, until he joined the faculty of Western Theological Seminary as professor of practical theology. In 1963, Bast felt the call to return to a pastorate, namely his former church, the Bethany Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. Bast was also the speaker on the Temple Time radio broadcast from 1952-1972. His second tenure with Bethany ended in 1972, when he gave up his position as senior pastor of the church and become the minister of calling. This final position ended in 1976. Dr. Bast died on March 29, 1983, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Henry Bast was a well-known person in the Reformed Church in America. While president of the General Synod from 1960-1961, he originated the idea of the General Synod Executive Committee. It was widely held that Bast was an excellent teacher, speaker, and preacher of the Word of God. He once told Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, “I so love to do it, I’d pay to preach.”

Scope and Content

The Bast collection contains radio messages, sermons, articles, his Western Theological Seminary graduation address, and the doctoral dissertation for the University of Michigan by Jacoba Dalebout regarding Bast’s radio sermons. The folders are arranged alphabetically by
subject and papers chronologically within the folders.

Container List

Box 1

Articles
Bast, Henry
   “An Appeal to the Ministers and Laymen of the Chicago and Iowa Synods,” n.d.
   “The Authority of the Bible,” 1951
   “Ordination Vows of Ministers and Elders,” 1947
   “The Preacher and the Word of God,” 1933 (WTS graduation address)
Church Herald, 1947-1973 (scattered)
Intelligencer-Leader, 1939
Reformed Review, 1958-1962

Biographical, 2000-2018

Books
   Eager to Preach: Selected Sermons of Henry Bast, 1987
   The Lord’s Prayer, 1957

Box 2

Clippings, 1958-1983 (scattered)
Publications, Ordination Vows of Ministers and Elders, 1947
Sermons, Bethany Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, 1944-1945
Temple Time

Box 3

Temple Time (cont.)
   Radio Messages, 1958-1973 (4 folders)
   Sermons, n.d., 1954-1955 (2 folders)
Western Theological Seminary, 1958
   First Annual Henry Bast Festival of Preaching brochure, 1989
   Henry Bast Memorial Preaching Program, n.d.
   Installation as professor of Practical Theology, 1958