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Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Beaverdam Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan, was organized in March 1870. Material includes records of the consistory, members, Christian Endeavor, missionaries, history, photos and reel-to-reel tapes.

Accession No: W99-1251
Provenance: Beaverdam Reformed Church
Custody: Beaverdam Reformed Church
Photographs: 113 images (Box 2)
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, February 2001

History

Beaverdam Reformed Church was organized March 14, 1870, with the assistance of First Reformed Church of Zeeland, their mother church. The first church, a very small basic building, was built in 1871 on the present site of the Beaverdam Cemetery. Until they called their first pastor, an elder, who also read a sermon, led services. Rev. J. Broek accepted their call in 1871 and a parsonage was built in 1872. A dispute arose concerning the location of a new church building and parsonage the following year. Eventually, the issue was settled, and a new church was built on a new location. The congregation clearly sacrificed to make this possible.

South Blendon Reformed Church, a daughter church, was organized in 1883. Beaverdam Church called its second pastor in 1884, and he was installed in 1885. The small group struggled on in spite of considerable poverty. The North Blendon Reformed Church was organized in 1903, the second daughter church.

In the early years, Beaverdam Church lost two pastors to death, but growth and progress moved on. The consistory of the Beaverdam Reformed Church decided in 1904 to have one English language service a month.

A new parsonage was built in 1918. In 1919, they voted to have two English services a month, and in 1924, it was decided to have a Holland language service at 9 a.m. and English language service at 1:30 p.m. each Lord’s Day.

Beaverdam Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1920. In 1930, the vote at congregational meetings was offered to all women of the church 18 years and older.

In 1943, it was decided to have one Holland language service a month.

Two servicemen died in 1945, John De Boer and Foster De Vries.

The basement of the church was remodeled in 1952, and the chapel was annexed to the church. A new parsonage was proposed in 1959 and completed in 1961, new windows put in the church and chapel and improvements made to the church property. More improvements were made in 1968 and 1969. The organ was reconstructed, a three-year process, and rededicated in 1982.

In 1995, the congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Pastors who served Beaverdam Reformed Church are the Reverends J. Broek (1872-
Beaverdam Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan
W99-1251

1884); P. G. M. Bahler (1885-1889); Wm. Baas (1891-1903); J. Van Zanten (1904-1908); M. D. Van Der Meer (1909-1911); J. W. Te Paske (1913-1917); H. Maasen (1919-1922); D. Bogard (1924-1928); C. J. Schroeder (1929-1936); P. Muyskens (1937-1940); A. Tellinghuisen (1942-1945); H. Rozendal (1946-1949); J. Weener (1952-1955); H. Lenters (1956-1959); J. Blaauw (1960-1965); L. P. Kraay (1966-1987); H. De Jong (1987-1992); B. Norg (1993-1997); J. F. Dykstra (1999- ).

Scope and Content

The records consist of elder and consistory minutes (Dutch only language, 1870-1924), congregational and financial records, Beaverdam Cemetery minutes, anniversary booklets and several photos from the centennial booklet, baptismal and member records. Five reel-to-reel tapes; three are of the centennial celebration.

Container List

Box 1

Anniversary
   Centennial, 1870-1920
   125th, 1995
   Articles
   Booklet
   Memories Booklet

Articles of Association, 1917

Audio Tapes (reel-to-reel), 5 tapes, n.d., 1970

Baptism Records, 1885-1906, (bound volume) (Dutch)
Beaverdam Cemetery, Minutes, 1985-1991

Buds of Promise/League for Service, Records, 1933-1941 (bound volume)
Care Groups, 1998

Certificates
   Baptism, 1937-1978
   Membership, 1911-2013
   Transfer, 1937-2013 (2 folders)

Christian Endeavor (C.E.) Society, Meeting Minutes, 1927-1945 (2 bound volumes)

Church
   Contents, 1978
   Property, Abstract, Quit Claim, Survey, 1947

Congregational Meeting, Minutes, 1986-1991

Consistory
   Correspondence, n.d., 1966-1992
   Elder, Congregational Meeting, Minutes, 1982-1988
   Elder, Consistory Meeting, Minutes, 1989-2008 (4 folders)

Box 2
Consistory
Minutes
1870-1880 (Dutch) (bound volume)
1870-1880 (translated from Dutch)
1880-1914 (Dutch) (bound volume)
1914-1940 (Dutch/English) (bound volume)
1940-1952, 1956-1957 (2 volumes)
1952-1968 (bound volume)
Deacon’s Account Book, 1904-1915 (Dutch) (bound volume)
Dedication, Land for New Church, 1997
Deeds, 1865-1917
Drawings, Proposed addition, 1974
Early history of the Property and Location, 1870
Evaluations, Consistory and Pastor, n.d.
Family Night, Schedule, 1992
Finances
Benevolent Fund Report, 1991
Building Fund Report, 1991
Congregational, December 1927-December 1946 (bound volume)
Miscellaneous, 1945, 1970
Food Service Inspection and Water Analysis Reports, 1980
“From Zoetermeer to Zoetermeer,” by Peter Huyser, translated by Henry S. Lucas, n.d.
Insurance Policies, 1979-1983
Legal Papers, Miscellaneous, 1942, 1970, 1972
Membership
Charter, 1870-1890 (Dutch) (bound volume)
Records, 1890-1922 (Dutch/English) (2 bound volumes)
Ministers, Kraay, Louis P., 1987
Miscellaneous, n.d., 1956-1993 (scattered)
Mission Guild
Records, 1955-1963 (2 volumes)
25th Anniversary, September 26, 1974
Mission Society, Records, February 1926-September 1934 (bound volume)
Organ History, 2010
Organizational Meeting, 1870 (Dutch)
Parsonage, Paid Notes, 1961-1964
Photos
Anniversary
50th, 1920
75th, 1970
90th, 1960
100th, 1970
125th, 1995
Beaverdam Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan
W99-1251

Church, 1970, 1988
Group, Consistory, 1972
Individual
   Kraay, Louis, 1970
Ministers, 1872-1993
Missionaries
   Harrison, Jim, n.d.
   Kapenga, Barbara, 1981
   Kooy, Gladys, 1958
   Machiela, Chester, n.d.
   Meyerink, Paul, 1985
   Popovich, Harold, n.d.
   Schreuder, Alan, n.d.
   Sherican, Anton, n.d.
   Sikkema, LaVerne, n.d., 1990
   Van Engen, Chuck, 1977, 1978
   Servicemen, n.d.
Miscellaneous, n.d.
Property Search Committee, Report, 1991
Proposal
   Building and Heating, 1979, 1980
   Insurance, n.d.
Purchase Agreement, Sauder Mfg. Co., 1967
Right of Way Agreement, 1955
Sunday School Records, 1924-1927, 1949-1950 (2 bound volumes)
Zeeland Classis Reports, 1991