May 2012


Western Theological Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers)

Part of the Archival Science Commons

**Recommended Citation**


[https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/101](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/101)


This Register is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and College History at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collection Registers and Abstracts by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

**Abstract**

Organized in 1924 as the Van Raalte Avenue Reformed Church and later dissolved in 1996 as Bethel Reformed Church. Records include minutes and financial records of the consistory (Elders, Consistory, and Executive Committee Minutes). Other church organizations, church bulletins, directories, ledgers, membership records, correspondence, and photographs are open for public research.

**Accession No:** W97-1220  
**Provenance:** Bethel Reformed Church  
**Donor:** Bethel Reformed Church  
**Photographs**  
9 images (Box 4), 2 images (Box 5)  
**Processed by:** Allyson K. Boggess, May 1998

**History**

Bethel Reformed Church was first organized on September 2, 1924, headed by Rev. M. A. Stegeman. Rev. Edward Tanis was called to be their first pastor. Bethel was formally named the Van Raalte Avenue Reformed Church, though the name was changed to the Bethel Reformed Church on October 1, 1928, by votes from the congregation and, ultimately, the consistory. Organizations such as the Ladies Aid Society, Men’s Brotherhood, and Young Women’s League were eventually formed. Unfortunately, due to a decline in membership and in defined leadership over the years, Bethel Reformed Church held their final service on December 29, 1996, and dissolved formally in 1997.

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains records of the Bethel Reformed Church from the early 1920s until 1997, including consistory minutes (Elders, Consistory, and Executive Committee Minutes). Other organizational minutes, financial records for the consistory and other organizations, church directories, anniversary information, specific ledgers, correspondence, and other information are open to public research without restriction. The folders for this collection are arranged alphabetically.

**Container List**

**Box 1**

Adult Bible Study  
Constitution, n.d.  
Minutes, 1947-1970  
Anniversary Booklet (25th), 1924-1949  
Annual Meetings/Budgets, 1981-1996 (2 folders)
Bethel Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
W97-1220

Articles of Agreement/Incorporation, 1922, 1924-1928, 1931, 1949, 1951
Baby Roll Enrollment Cards, 1981-1986
Bulletins, 1943-1963, 1972 (22 folders)
Business Administration Committee Disbursements (monthly), 1982-1988
Business Administration Committee Minutes, n.d.
Business Minutes/Meetings, n.d. (2 folders)
Certificates of Baptism, 1909, 1922
Certificates and Letters of Dismission, 1924-1953
Choir Echoes, n.d.
Christian Education Committee Minutes, n.d.
Christian Service Guild, 1981-1984 (bound)
Cluster Family Program, n.d.
Communicant Members, 1982-1984
Congregational Care Committee Minutes, n.d.

Box 2

Consistory Minutes, 1923-1931 (bound)
Consistorial Reports
   Annual, 1980-1991 (2 folders)
   Pastor Ron Helmink’s Reports to the Consistory, February 1980 - September 1980
Constitution
   Appendix to the Bylaws, n.d.
   Bi-Laws, n.d.
Correspondence
   n.d., 1930-1997 (15 folders)
   Consistory, n.d.
   Newcomers’ Letters, n.d.
   Related to Vacancy, Oct. 1980-July 1982 and Call to Mr. Alan Hofland
Cradle Roll Listing, 1947-1987
Deacons Minutes, 1931-1943 (bound)
Director of Volunteer Ministries Reports, n.d.
Directory
   1924-1996 (3 folders)
   Proofs, 1986
Dismission Certificate
   Granted Booklet, 1954-1959

Box 3

Elders, Consistory, and Executive Committee Minutes, 1959-1994 (23 folders)
Elders and Deacons
  Attendance Lists, 1983-1987
  Teams Lists, 1981-1990
Family Group Visitation Program, n.d.
“Fifty Years of Service” 1924-1974 Bulletin
Financial
  Contracting, Purchasing etc., n.d.
  Ledger, 1970-1980 (bound)
  Offerings, 1980-1987
  Promissory Notes, n.d.
  Report on Religious Education (annual), 1934-1935
Financial Reports (annual), 1925-1985 (5 folders)
Funerals, 1995-1996
Guild Pamphlet, 1974-1981
Guild for Christian Service
  Minutes, 1969-1973 (bound)
  Minutes, 1974-1980 (bound)
Koinonia: A Shared Adventure, 1984
Ladies Aid Society
  Attendance and Minutes, 1928-1993 (1928-1934 bound) (8 folders)
  Constitution, n.d.
Library, n.d.

Box 4

Membership
  1900s-1930s (bound)
  Transfers, 1990-1995
Men’s Brotherhood
  Constitution, Minutes, and Attendance, 1939-1941 (bound)
  Minutes, 1942-1945 (bound)
Missionary
  Agreements, 1978-1986
  Certificates, Profiles, 1978-1992
  Correspondence, 1990-1996
Photographs
  Bruggink, Roger and Adilee, 1986
  Doorenbos, Harvey and Margaret, August 1981
  Ford, Peter and Patty, n.d.
  Herbelin, Ted and June, n.d.
  Miersma, Harry and Pat, 1984; Family, n.d. (2 items)
  Sikkema, Verne and Lorraine, n.d.
  Stewart, Elizabeth and Thomas, Oklahoma University, n.d.
  Westra, Richard and Maja, 1983
Outreach Committee Minutes, 1983-1992
Photographs, Baseball and Softball Teams, 1990 (2 images)
Property, 1962  
Redecorating Bethel Reformed Church Correspondence and Plans, 1984  
Register Cards, A-E, H, J, K-P, R-T, V-W (18 folders)  
S.A.F.E Committee  
  Minutes, 1992  
  Study Report, 1992  
Sanctuary Windows, 1976-1983  
Seminary Scholarship Fund Policy, 1975  
Social Functions File, 1977-1987  
Staff Relations Committee Minutes, 1992  
Survey of Steketee Brothers Addition to the Bethel Reformed Church, 1970  
Sunday School, Teachers and Officers Minutes  
  1925-1956 (bound)  
  1959-1983 (bound)  
Telephone Directory, 1993  
Worship Committee  
  Disbursements (monthly), 1984-1985, 1988  
  Minutes, 1983-1993  
Young Women’s Branch of the Executive Committee Minutes, 1902-1918 (bound)  
Young Women’s Branch Minutes, 1903-1924 (bound)  
Young Women’s Committee of the Synod of Chicago Minutes, 1919-1926 (bound)  
Young Women’s League for Service Constitution, Minutes, and Attendance, 1931-1942 (bound)

Box 5 (Oversize)

Articles of Association and Amendment (negatives included), 1925, 1929  
Certificate of Amendment, Changing the Name from Van Raalte to Bethel, 1929, 1955  
Church Membership, Baptismal, and Marriage Records, ca. 1910s-1950s  
Consistory Minutes  
  1931-1952  
  1952-1959  
Embosser, n.d.  
Financial Report, 1923-1930  
General Fund Ledger, 1978-1983

Box 6 (Oversize)

Ledger  
  Old Church Records (A-H), n.d.  
  Old Church Records (I-Z), n.d.  
  Old Church Records, ca. 1930s (2 folders)  
Lot 151 Steketee Brothers Addition Papers, 1962  
Mortgage Documents and Lot Abstracts, 1914-1966