
Western Theological Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers

Part of the Archival Science Commons

Recommended Citation


June 18, 2012.

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.
W99-1244. de Velder, Marion “Mert” (1912-2004).
Papers, 1949-2004. 6.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Central College (Pella, Iowa) class of 1934; B.D. and Masters of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1937; Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Central College in 1949; Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hope College in 1977; licensed for the ministry by the Classis of New Brunswick in 1937; ordained by the Classis of Philadelphia, 1937; student pastor at the Griggstown Reformed Church (Griggstown, New Jersey) 1935-1937; pastor for North and Southampton Reformed Church (Churchville, Pennsylvania), 1937-1939; Hope Reformed Church (Holland, Michigan), 1939-1951, 1952-1959, 1981; associate minister at First Reformed Church (Albany, New York), 1951-1952; pastor for Central Reformed Church (Grand Rapids, Michigan), 1959-1961; Vice President of the General Synod, 1957-1958 and President, 1958-1959; Stated Clerk for the General Synod, 1961-1968; General Secretary of the RCA, 1968-1977; Chairman, Commission on a United Approach to Church, 1949-1952; member of the RCA Board of Education, 1954-1961 (president, 1959-1961); trustee for Central College, 1954-1961 (Mr. & Mrs. Alumni Award, 2000); member of the Holland Rotary Club, 1939-2004; and membership on many other worthy organizations; wrote a weekly inspirational newspaper column for the Holland Sentinel “that reflected attributes that his friends and colleagues associated with him through his wit and wisdom that he wove into his writings, lectures and conversations with others,” 1981-present. Collection includes biographical information, a transcript created by the Hope College Living Heritage Oral History Project (1979); correspondence concerning the writing of William Scudder’s Arabian Mission Story book and general topics; and general publications appearing in magazines, as well as the Hope Church Pulpit 1944-1945, and his book Person to Person, 1997 (book of his Holland Sentinel articles).

Accession No: W99-1244
Provenance: Marion de Velder
Donor: Marion de Velder
Photographs: 4 images (Boxes 3 and 4)
Processed by: Geoffrey D. Reynolds, June 2000
Jean Postma, 2006
Carolyn Nienhuis, 2008
Elaine Bruins, 2012

Biography

Marion “Mert” de Velder was born in Boyden, Iowa, on January 28, 1912, to Franklin Dirk and Aartje (Ver Hoef) de Velder, the youngest of five children. He remained in Boyden until graduating from high school. He then entered Central College (Pella, Iowa) where he later received his A.B. degree in 1934, a B.D. and Masters of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1937, Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Central College in 1949, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Hope College in 1977. He also conducted
summer graduate studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1944, 1945, and 1956.

Marion de Velder married Edith Wandscheer in Sioux Center, Iowa, on August 15, 1935, after meeting at Central College. He was licensed for the ministry by the Classis of New Brunswick in 1937 and ordained by the Classis of Philadelphia that same year.

His ministry career began as a student pastor at the Griggstown Reformed Church in Griggstown, New Jersey, from 1935-1937. His professional career began when he accepted the position of pastor for North and Southampton Reformed Church of Churchville, Pennsylvania, in 1937, and remained there until taking another call to Hope Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, in 1939. He remained there until taking the associate minister role at First Reformed Church of Albany, New York, in 1951. In 1952, he returned to Hope Reformed Church and remained there until 1959. His next position was of pastor for Central Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1959-1961. He would return to a ministerial role in 1981 when he accepted a call back to Hope Reformed Church and remained there until retiring as assistant minister of pastoral care.

In 1957, de Velder began his administrative career with the RCA when he was elected vice president of the General Synod. He graduated to president in 1958 and remained there for one year. In 1961, he began his career as administrator for the Reformed Church in America (RCA), when he was appointed the Stated Clerk for the General Synod and held this position until 1968. He was then appointed General Secretary of the RCA, a position he held from 1968-1977.

Other key roles included: Chairman, Commission on a United Approach to Church, 1949-1952; member of the RCA Board of Education, 1954-1961 (president, 1959-1961); trustee for Central College, 1954-1961 (Mr. & Mrs. Alumni Award, 2000); member of the Holland Rotary Club, 1939-present; and membership in many other worthy organizations.

After retiring in 1981, de Velder began writing a weekly inspirational newspaper column for the Holland Sentinel “that reflected attributes that his friends and colleagues associated with him through his wit and wisdom that he wove into his writings, lectures and conversations with others.”

Marion de Velder passed away in Holland, Michigan, on September 2, 2004.

Scope and Content

Collection includes biographical information, a transcript of his Hope College Living Heritage Oral History Project (1979); correspondence concerning the writing of the Arabian Mission Story book and general topics; and general publications appearing in magazines, as well as the Hope Church Pulpit 1944-1945, and his book Person to Person, 1997 (book of his Holland Sentinel articles), sermons from 1938-1961. Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject. Sermons are arranged chronologically. Since many sermons were used multiple times, they are filed in the last year given.

Container List

Box 1

Bibliographies, n.d.
Biographical
General, 1949-2004
Hope College Living Heritage Oral History Project, 1979
Board of Domestic Missions Report, 1947
Board of Education Report, 1953
Bulletin, Board of Foreign Missions, 1948
Bulletins: First Reformed Church, Albany, NY, 1951-1952
Central Reformed Church Bulletins, 1960-1962
Central Reformed Church Publications, 1931-1958
Church Bulletins, Miscellaneous, 1936-1959, n.d.
Conference, Hope College, 1959
Conference: The Task of Preaching, 1959
Correspondence
  Arabian Mission Story, 1998-1999
  Election as President of General Synod, June, 1958
  From Hope Church Members, June, 1957
  General Synod election as Vice-President, 1957
  May, June, 1957
Death Records, 1936-1999
Funeral Services
  Lingering Memories, n.d. (2 folders)
  Poems, Prayers, Bible quotations, n.d.
  What to do, a booklet of funeral facts, 1935
Funerals and Memorials (99 folders)

Box 2

Funerals and Memorials (cont.) (154 folders)
General Synod
  Report, 1952
  Reports, June 4, 1959
Herrick City Library: Groundbreaking and Dedication, 1958, 1960
Homiletics papers, New Brunswick Seminary, 1935-1937
Hope Church
  Anniversary celebrations
    A brief record, 80th, 90th, 100th, 120th
    Anniversary, 80th historical sketch, May 3, 1942
    100th historical sketch, 1962
    125th, address by M. deVelder, history, program, 1987
Correspondence, 1949, 1959
Dedication of Historical Marker, June 9, 1991
Parish Life Center, 1982
Directory, 1984
Farewell to Dennis Te Beest, n.d.
Financial Report, 1956
Historical Booklet, 1982
Members, 80 years and older, 1990, 1992
Script for anniversary celebration, n.d.

_Hope Church News_, 1951, 1957, 1961

_The Hope Church Pulpit_, Sermons by M. de Velder, Vol. 1, No, 1-5, 1944
Installation Service for Randall Bosch, 1959
Job Offers, 1944-1959

Lectures
- Gospel of Mark, 1956, 1957
- Great Chapters of the Bible for Adult Fellowship, 1958-1959
- Introduction to the Gospels, 1956
- “The Church,” n.d.

Lenten Series Brochures, 1940-1961
Like a good watch, by M. deVelder, Christian Herald, March 1953, and booklet, 1952
Marble Collegiate Church bulletin, September 27, 1964
The Marriage Service, n.d.
National Christian College Sunday, 1959
North and Southampton Reformed Church, Churchville, Pennsylvania, Publications, 1935-1980
Northwestern College and Academy, Orange City, Iowa, 75th Anniversary Commencement Program, 1958

Box 3

New Brunswick Seminary Speeches, 1949, n.d.
New Year’s Eve Services, 1954, 1956, 1961
Photographs, 1957, 1959, n.d. (3 images)
“Pioneer” (Dutch Canadian paper), 1959
Preaching Schedules, Central Reformed Church, 1959-1961
Preaching and Speaking Schedules, 1961-1964
Program, Laying of the Cornerstone of the Interchurch Center, 1958

Publications
- General, 1947-1991
  _Person to Person_, 1997
- Person to Person _Holland Sentinel_ column, 1993-1997 (incomplete)
Published Sermons, n.d., 1943-1967 (3 folders)
The Pulpit, “When Life Kicks Back.” by M. de Velder, August 1946
Reformed Church Brotherhood, 1958
Resignation from Central Reformed Church, 1961
Resignation from Hope Reformed Church, 1959
Resignation from and return to Hope Church, 1951-1952
Revision of the Constitution, RCA, 1958
Sermons
   “The Great Affirmation,” 1856
   1938-1952, (15 folders)

Box 4

Sermons (cont.)
   1953-1961 (16 folders)
Special Addresses, 1939-1958, n.d.
Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary, 1995
Stewardship, 1958
Student papers
   New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 1937
   University of Chicago, 1944
Tests for Young People, n.d.
Synod meeting, July 1995, article and picture (1 image)
Ver Hoef and de Velder family histories, n.d.
Warwick Estates, New York, 1961
World Council of Churches Assemblies, 1980, 1982

Oversized (see Oversized Collections Drawer)

Recording disc of Marion De Velder reading “The Luck of Roaring Camp” by Francis Bret Harte, Holland Civic Center, December 13, 1956