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Papers, 1963-1993. 0.50 linear ft.



Abstract

General Secretary of Reformed Church of America, 1977-1983; Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, 1983-1985; General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, 1985-1989. The collection contains magazine articles written by or about Brouwer, newspaper clippings, papers written by Brouwer as General Secretary of the Reformed Church, personal papers detailing his battle against cancer, the manuscript of his book *Reformed Church Roots: Thirty-five Formative Events*, and his 1991 book *Ecumenical Testimony*.

Accession No: W88-0016.1
Provenance: Arie Brouwer
Processed by: Jodi McFarland, January 1994

Biography

Arie R. Brouwer, born in 1935, graduated from Hope College in 1956 and from Western Theological Seminary in 1959. He was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity from Central College of Pella, Iowa, in 1978. Brouwer was General Secretary, the chief executive office of the Reformed Church of America, from 1977 to 1983. He then moved on to become the Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches until 1985.

In 1985, Brouwer was appointed General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ. In a 1989 meeting concerning the need for restructuring the council, Brouwer lashed out in a speech accusing unnamed persons of “character assassination” and “ideological warfare.” Brouwer suggested that he had been made the scapegoat of the governing board, which discussed the need for structure revision within the Council. This brought on a vote concerning Brouwer’s leadership abilities which ended in a tie. Brouwer broke the tie himself by resigning. Cancer struck Brouwer in 1992, and he succumbed to the disease in 1993.

Scope and Content

This collection’s strong points are found in the papers relating to the National Council of Churches of Christ, which detail Brouwer’s time as General Secretary and the events leading to his resignation, as well as the clippings. See also his Hope biographical file.

Container List

Articles, 1963-1991
Biographical, 1993
Book, *Ecumenical Testimony*, 1991
Clippings, 1978-1987

Journal, "Living with Cancer," 1992-1993
Lecture, "Beyond Personality Conflict: The Real Crisis at the NCC (National Christian Councils), 1990
Manuscript, "Reformed Church Roots: Thirty-Five Formative Events," c. 1977
Middle East Peace Makers, 1991-1993
National Council of Churches of Christ papers, 1984-1990
Reformed Church in America
 General Secretary, 1977, 1981
 Papers on RCA matters, "Toward an Identity for the Reformed Church in America," "Reformed Church Centers," "Where Do We Go From Here?"
Sermon, "Biblical Baptism," 1963