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1 December 1873

Mattoax, Amelia County Court, Virginia

1949

Several references to the Reformed Church in Mattoax^s in documents of the Classis of New York, the minutes of the Particular Synod of Chicago, and minutes of the Particular Synod of New York, relating mainly to the financial needs of this congregation.

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An application from the Ref. Ch. At Mattoax, Amelia Co. Va. For a like recommendation in the sum of \$500 for one year from Dec. 1st, 1873.

Your committee recommend,

Resolved that this Ch. be recommended in the sum of \$500 on condition that the Ch. shall be transferred by Gen. Synod to the Classis of N.Y. and that its Pastor shall become a member of this Classis.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.198 – Meeting April 21, 1874.

Resolved that Rev. John Huizenga of the Classis of Holland, Particular Synod of Chicago, be received as member of this Classis, when the following conditions shall have been met, viz. that the Church of which he is Pastor shall have been regularly set off to this Classis, and that he shall have signed the formula, which signature the Stated Clerk is hereby authorized to receive.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.199-200 – Meeting April 21, 1874.

The following paper was received

“Extract from the minutes of the Particular Synod of Chicago for 1872.”

The Committee on Overtures and Judicial Business would respectfully report that they have received a communication from a Reformed Church of Amelia and Mattoax, Va. requesting Particular Synod to dissolve [sic] their connection with the Classis of Holland and transfer them to the Classis of New York.

Your Committee deem it proper that their request be granted.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Kiekintveld, Chm.

The above is an exact copy of the original.

J. W. Beardslee
Stated Clerk Part. Syn. Chicago

Resolved that this paper be sent to General Synod.

Whereas it is probable that the General Synod will at its session now approaching set off the Church of Mattoax, Amelia Co., Va. to the Particular Synod of New York

Resolved that the Particular Synod of New York be requested by this Classis to give its consent that the said church if thus transferred by the Gen. Synod shall be accepted within the bounds of this Classis of New York according to the desire of said church already made known to this Classis.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.200 – Meeting April 21, 1874.

The church appears on the list of members present (without any representative) for the first time at the meeting on Oct. 20, 1874 (p. 217)

Also an application to recommend to the same Board the Churches of Mattoax, Amelia C.H. Virginia for \$500 from Dec 1, 1874.

We recommend said churches to the Board for aid to the amount of \$250. for six months only; and the Classis express its conviction that, at the termination of the six months, aid should terminate, unless more favorable information be received as to the prospects of said churches.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.221-222 – Meeting Oct. 20, 1874.

In the report of the committee on synodical minutes:

And on page 46 a resolution relative to the transfer of the Church at Mattoax, Amelia C.H., Va.—

In reference to the same subject, they find in the Minutes of General Synod, page 102, a resolution directing the transfer.

Your Committee recommend that this Church be received and entered on the roll of Classis.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p. 222 – Meeting Oct. 20, 1874.

In the state of religion report is found:

The Ch. of Mattoax and Amelia Court House, Va. presents only a statistical table, to which is subscribed the name of John Huizenga, as Missionary Pastor.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.234 – Meeting April 20, 1875.

Your Committee [on Church Extension] have also had presented to them a request for the recommendation of the Churches of Mattoax & Amelia C.H. to the Board of Domestic Missions for the sum of \$250 for the half year beginning June 1, 1875.

Your Committee refer the Classis to the action taken by your body in regard to those Churches in the session of October last.

Your Committee are not informed of any facts that ought to modify the action then taken.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.247 – Meeting Oct. 19, 1875.

Informal applications for recommendation for aid from the Bd. of Missions was made in behalf of the church of Brookfield, Ct. & of the churches of Mattoax & Amelia C.H.; and by request the Rev. Dr. West Sec. of the Domestic Board addressed the Classis upon the subject. Whereupon it was

Resolved That the churches of Mattoax and Amelia C.H. be recommended for aid in the sum of \$500 from Dec. 1, 1875 for one year.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.250 – Meeting Dec. 9, 1875.

The classis received a communication at their April 18, 1876, meeting from the Mattoax church relating the Board of Domestic Missions suggestion to employ seminary students on the mission field and to increasing support for the Board. In response the classis had no field in which students would engage and again urged members to support the Board.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p. 260 – Meeting April 18, 1876.

At the Oct. 17, 1876 meeting it was reported that the clerk had received no report from the Mattoax church and he was instructed to communicate with them. (p. 271)

At a special meeting on Feb. 12, 1877, the clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Mattoax church and it was referred to the Committee on Church Extension. (p. 274)

On Church Extension

Your Committee as directed have made full enquiry into the condition and prospects of the Churches at Mattoax and Amelia Court House and find that only some 15 Holland families remain in that settlement, of which only 11 or 12 can worship at Mattoax, the others residing at Amelia Court House distant about 12 miles. The entire number of persons, men, women, and children, at both places is about 80. The people might with great difficulty raise \$100 for the support of ordinances. Nor is there any reasonable expectation that the settlement will soon increase. We do not think it advisable that a missionary be sent there.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.281-282 – Meeting April 17, 1877.

That the Church at Mattoax receive a sum not exceeding \$50 to pay the expense of a minister to visit them and dispense ordinances at some time during the year.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p.282 – Meeting April 17, 1877.

The classis urged the BDM to send a minister to Mattoax for the above. (Apr. 16, 1878,

p. 312) NOTE: Starting at the meeting on Oct. 16, 1877, the Mattoax church was no longer listed in the roll of members present. They appear again on the roll at the Oct. 21, 1879 meeting (p. 353).

Church Extension

Mattoax and Amelia Court House, Va., public worship is regularly maintained on each Sabbath by the Elder. These churches were visited in January last by a member of your committee. There is no prospect of sustaining a pastor there. But your committee recommended that the Board of Domestic Missions expend a sum not exceeding fifty (50) dollars, in sending a minister to visit them and administer the ordinances.

Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.9, p. 384 – Meeting April 20, 1880.

The October 21, 1884, meeting action is on page 252, Minutes, New York Classis, 341, v.10.

The transfer was approved at the March 17, 1885, meeting (p.278).