July 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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The Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York (the Church) is the oldest recognized church in the United States. Dutch immigrants founded it in 1628, two years after the founding of New Amsterdam. Although it functioned as a congregation for 68 years, the Church did not receive a charter until 1696. The charter is notable since the British had taken over the colony. The granting of a charter marked a certain level of religious toleration in the British colonies. The Church went through great changes in ministers, buildings, and membership. Such changes, which span nearly 400 years, are too numerous to mention. It has branched into several buildings and has a membership of between five and six thousand people. The Church has shown a remarkable transformation over its life, adapting to the changing population of New York City.

Associated with the Church is Collegiate School, which also dates to the time of Dutch possession. It is the oldest school in the United States.

This collection consists of published accounts of the Church and its history. The Church has printed many bulletins to commemorate its anniversaries. Included in the bulletins are numerous histories of the Church, which track the ministers and churches back to its foundation. Although there are no documents in this collection for the period 1628-1886, some portion of the history can be known through these accounts.

Much of the rest of the collection is comprised of the annual Church yearbook, which relates information of church activities, membership, and financial status. The yearbooks cover the period from 1886 to 1989. Also in the collection are commemoration services of G. Washington and William McKinley.

Accession No.: W91-1044
Provenance: Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Processed by: Craig Wright, December 1991
Jim Breyfogle, February 1995

History

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Scope and Content

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Container List

Box 1

Bicentenary of the Charter of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York, 1896
Brower, William Leverich
   1626-1926 Tercentenary of the City of New York: A Tribute to the Settlement of New York, by the Dutch, early in the seventeenth century, 1926
   1628-1928 Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York: Her Organization and Development, 1928
   1732-1932 Tribute to the Memory of George Washington, 1932
   The Famous Charter of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York, 1931
   The Celebration of the Quarter-Millennial Anniversary of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York, 1878
   Historical Sketch of the Origin and Organization of the Reformed Church in America and of the Collegiate Church of the City of New York, n. d.
   New York Observer. Secular Department, 3/16/1881 (article on the Reformed Dutch Church)
   Services in Memory of the Late President William McKinley, 1901
   Society for Christian Work, 31st Annual Report, 1900
   Yearbooks, 1886-1960 (scattered, 2 folders)

Box 2

Yearbooks, 1961-1989 (scattered, 4 folders)