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W93-1063. Michigan, Holland. First Reformed Church. Records, 1867-1990. 18.25 linear ft.
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W93-1063. Michigan, Holland. First Reformed Church.
Records, 1867-1990. 18.25 linear ft. **PARTIALLY RESTRICTED**



Abstract

The First Reformed Church had its beginning in 1847 when Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte came to Holland to avoid persecution in the Netherlands. Regular services began in a log church, where Pilgrim Home Cemetery is today. The group of believers was organized as a congregation of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) in 1850 and, in 1856, the congregation moved into its newly-built Pillar Church at Ninth and College.

On February 27, 1882, the majority of the congregation voted to withdraw from the RCA and retained the church building and parsonage. The minority group then built a new building at the corner of Ninth and Central. They occupied this location until 1963, when they constructed a new church on State Street.

The materials of the First Reformed Church include records of the consistory, elders, and congregational meetings, membership, ladies aid society, women's adult Bible class, women's missionary society, young people's Christian Endeavor society, young women's band, correspondence, and 147 photographs. Also included are five Bibles and two membership books. The minutes of the consistory meetings are in Dutch until 1916.

Accession No: W93-1063
Provenance: First Reformed Church
Donor: Custody Agreement
Photographs: 147 images (Boxes 1, 2, 11)
Processed by: Chad A. Boorsma, October 1993
Elaine Bruins, 2006-2007

History

The First Reformed Church had its beginning in 1847 when Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte came to Holland to avoid persecution in the Netherlands. Regular services began in a log church, where Pilgrim Home Cemetery is today. The group of believers was organized as a congregation of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) in 1850 and in 1856 the congregation moved into its newly-built Pillar Church at Ninth and College.

On February 27, 1882, the majority of the congregation voted to withdraw from the RCA and retained the church building and parsonage. The minority group then built a new building at the corner of Ninth and Central. They occupied this location until 1963 when they constructed a new church on State Street.

English services began during the pastorate of Rev. Henry J. Veldman (1906-1919) and consistory minutes were first written in English on February 6, 1916.

Scope and Content

This collection consists mainly of church minutes. The consistory minutes, which document major events in the church's history, also contain financial material. The folders are

First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
W93-1063

arranged alphabetically, except for the records of membership dismissals, which are chronological. See W92-1050 (Pillar Church) for records prior to 1882.

Container List

Box 1

Account Book, 1887-1905
Application for Aid, 1867
“Articles of Incorporation of the Trustees of the First Reformed Church,” 1886
Annual Consistorial Report, 1983-1984
Auditing Committee Reports, 1922, 1924-1928, 1930, 1932-1934, 1936, 1941, 1959, 1960, n.d.
Bibles (see Boxes 14-18)
Birthday Calendar, 1944, 1972 (2 folders)
Board of Domestic Missions, 1922, 1926, 1928, 1951
Board of Foreign Missions, 1926-1960
Board of North American Missions, 1963
Boy Scouts of America, 1925-1983, n.d. (1 image)
Budget and Financial Reports, 1928-1966
Bulletins, 1931-1993, n.d.
Celebration Sunday Bulletin, January 12, 1975
Christian Endeavor Society
 1924, 1926, 1940
 Attendance Record Book, 1925-1936
 Executive and Committee Reports, 1922-1940
 Society Record Book, 1940-1945
Christian Service Flag, 1958, 1963
Church Benevolences, 1924-1960, n.d.
“The Church Flag,” n.d.
Confidential Files (see Box 19) **(RESTRICTED)**
Congregational Meeting Minutes (see Boxes 12, 13)
Consistory Agendas, 1990
Consistory Members, 1940, 1945, 1964-1967, n.d.
Consistory, Elders and Congregational Meeting Minutes, (see Boxes 12 and 13)
Correspondence, 1882-1967-1971, 1983 (6 folders)
Correspondence, Holland Classis, 1983
Deacons’ Meeting Minutes, 1930-1946
Dedication Service, December 30, 1962
Directories, 1929, 1939, 1949, 1953, 1962, n.d.
Elders’ Meeting Minutes, 1965-1991, (see Boxes 12, 13)
Estate and Trust Documents, 1964-1965
Excelsior Class, 1934, 1937
Expanding the Vision, 2001
Extract of Birth and Baptism Record of a German Parish, 1857 (German)
Ground Breaking Service, August 9, 1961

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History

- Memorandum, 1847-1882
- One Hundred Anniversary Historical Booklet*, 1947
- One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary: Growing Out of Yesterday into Tomorrow*, 1997
- Holland Union Benevolent Association, 1923-1925, 1934-1935
- Hope College, 1931, 1934-1935, 1950, 1960
- Incorporation Document, State of Michigan, 1865
- Indenture, 1886
- Informational Pamphlets, n.d.
- Installation Services, 1939, 1942, 1953, 1992
- Kramer Estate, 1970-1971
- Ladies Aid Society
 - Constitution, 1922, 1950
 - Correspondence, 1939-1940
 - Minutes, 1918-1935 (4 folders)

Box 2

- Ladies Aid Society (cont.)
 - Minutes, 1936-1962 (6 folders)
 - Programs and Membership, 1957-1959
 - Publication, Domestic Review (recipes), 1934
 - Reports, 1962
- Life Enlistment and Support Cards, n.d.
- Luidens, Joy (Estate), 1964
- Membership (see Boxes 4-10)
- Men's Bible Class, 1943
- Microfilm Project, n.d.
- Ministerial Pension Fund, 1921-1933
- Mission Guild Minutes, 1950-1959
- Mission Guild Minutes and Constitution, 1960-1962
- Non-Profit Corporations Report, 1962-1973
- One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Banquet, 1972 (1 image)
- Pamphlets, 1847-1947
- Parsonage Renovations, 1926
- Petitions, 1917, n.d.
- Photographs
 - Barkema, Pvt. Charles, 1918 (1 image)
 - Bast, Dr. Henry, radio minister, n.d. (1 image)
 - Bell, Amanda, missionary, 1970 (1 image)
 - Bishop, 1st Class Private Marine, 1919 (1 image)
 - Branch, Rev. and Mrs. Andrew, n.d. (2 images)
 - Christmas Display, 1946 (2 images)
 - Church Choir, 1950-1951 (1 image)
 - Church Dinner, n.d. (5 images)

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Church, East 9th Street, 1947, n.d. (6 images)
Church Groups, 1907, n.d., unidentified (3 images)
deforest, Carroll and Betty, missionaries, n.d. (2 images)
Dykstra, Dr. and Mrs. Dirk, missionaries, n.d. (3 images)
Gosselink, Rev. Nicholas, minister, n.d. (3 images)
Greater Consistory, n.d. (1 image)
Ground Breaking, 1961 (1 image)
Hoffs and Van Dam, ministers, 1972, n.d. (4 images)
Individuals, unidentified, n.d. (9 images)
Kragt, Earl and Hazel, missionaries, n.d. (3 images)
Kruithof, Dr. Bastian, minister, n.d. (3 images)
Luidens, Edwin and Ruth, missionaries, 1957, n.d. (6 images)
Marsilje, Lois, missionary, 1957, n.d. (4 images)
Mission Guild, n.d. (1 image)
Missionaries, unidentified, n.d. (5 images)
Nykerk, Dr. and Mrs. Gerald, missionaries, n.d. (7 images)
One Hundredth Anniversary celebration, 1947 (See Pamphlet, 1847-1947 File)
(28 images)
Parsonage, East 12th Street, n.d. (1 image)
Piet, Mr. and Mrs. David, n.d. (1 image)
Pieters, Dr. Albertus and Mrs. Emma (Kollen), n.d. (1 image)
Pieters, Roelof, n.d. (1 image)
Real Fellows Class, n.d. (3 images)
Sybesma, Adeline, missionary, 1958, n.d. (2 images)
Unidentified group and individuals, n.d. (3 images)
Vacation Bible School, n.d. (2 images)
Walvoord, Jeanne, missionary, 1957, 1967, n.d. (4 images)
Wayer, Rev. James, minister, n.d. (1 image)
Wayer, Kruithof, Gosselink, ministers, n.d. (1 image)
Woman's Adult Bible Class, 1913 (1 image)
Pictorial Directory
Pages, n.d. (possibly 1975-76)
1970-1971, 1974-1975, 1993 (3 folders)

Box 3

Pieters, Emma Kollen (Estate), 1964-1965
Property Purchase, 1959-1960
Publications
 Remembrance Cook Book, 1972
 Tulip Time Tested Tasties, n.d.
Settler's Sunday
 1989, n.d.
 1991-1992 (15 images)
 Psalm Books, n.d.
 Services, 1990 (25 images)

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State of Michigan Supreme Court Case, 1883
Stewardship Self-Study, 1983
Sunday School
 Historical Sketch, 1877
 Minutes and Records, 1882-1893
Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, 1988 (State Street Church)
Wayer, Rev. James, 50th Ordination Anniversary, June 22, 1954
Western Theological Seminary, 1931, 1935, 1940, 1950, n.d.
Women's [Ladies] Adult Bible Class Committees, 1972-1978
Women's/Woman's Adult Bible Class
 Constitution, 1917, 1928, n.d.
 Minutes, 1907-1978 (incomplete) (9 folders)
Women's Board of Domestic Missions, 1932, 1941-1942
Women's Executive Committee of Domestic Missions, 1891-1917
Women's Missionary Society
 Attendance Book, 1941-1946
 Financial Reports, 1923-1929, n.d.
 Minutes, 1918-1937 (3 folders)

Box 4

Women's Missionary Society (cont.)
 Minutes, 1938-1962 (3 folders)
Young People's Fellowship Minutes, Nov. 1933-Sept. 1937
Young Women's Band Minutes, 1914-1917

Membership

 Baptism Records, 1871-1966
 Book, 1907-1920
 Correspondence, 1885-1983 (6 folders)
 Dismissal Records to other churches (chronological order), 1891-1935, 1938-1967

Box 5

Membership (cont.)

 List, 1855-1870
 Membership and Baptism Record Book, 1882-1929
 Record Book, 1907-1920
 Records, 1946-1948, 1952-1969 (2 folders)
 Statistics, 1961-1990
 Transfer Records (into First Reformed Church)
 1881-1940, A
 1891-1970, B
 1895-1964, C
 1885-1965, D

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1887-1966, E, F, G
1887-1969, H, I, J
1884-1969, K
1892-1996, L
1887-1970, M
1893-1970, N, O
1885-1968, P, Q
1879-1968, R
1882-1970, S
1887-1970, T, U
1884-1970, Val-Vau
1886-1969, Vee-Vyn
1884-1970, W
1897-1941, X, Y, Z

Box 6

Membership (cont.)
Baptismal Record Cards, 1895-1974, A-U

Box 7

Membership (cont.)
Baptismal Record Cards, 1895-1974, V-Z
Communicant Member Cards, 1887-1951, A-O

Box 8

Membership (cont.)
Communicant Member Cards, 1887-1951, P-Z

Box 9

Membership (cont.)
Family Record Cards, 1894-1946, A-Z

Box 10 (Oversize)

Membership (cont.)
Membership Record Book, 1877-1962
"Sing make a joyful noise" phonograph record, n.d.

Box 11 (Oversize)

Certificate, Sunday School Association, Adult Department, 1908
Drawings

**First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
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Log Cabin, n.d.
East Ninth Street Church, n.d.
First Reformed Church at Ninth St. and College Ave., n.d.
Log Cabin and Ninth Street Church, 1847-1947
First Reformed Church, State Street, n.d.

Photographs

Dan Gillette installation (25 images mounted on cardboard)
East Ninth Street Church, n.d. (1 image)
Unidentified group, n.d. (1 image)

Box 12

Consistory Agendas, August and September, 1990
Consistory Minutes
1850-1855 (Vol. I) (Dutch)
1855-1868 (Vol. II) pp.1-150 (Dutch)
1855-1868 (Vol. II) pp.151-335 (Dutch)
1882-1898 (Dutch)
1899-1913
1913-1928 (Dutch and English)
Consistory, Elders, and Congregational Meeting
Minutes, 1928-1947 (5 folders)

Box 13

Consistory, Elders, and Congregational Meeting (cont.)
Minutes, 1948-1981-1985 (10 folders)
Elders Meeting Minutes, 1985-1991

Box 14

“First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 1962” commemorative plate
de Staten Generael der Vereenighde Nederlanden Biblia, 1637

Box 15

Holy Bible, 1847

Box 16

Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version, 1952

Box 17

Holy Bible, from the Library of Dr. Albertus Pieters, 1964

Box 18

Holy Bible, n.d.

Box 19 (**RESTRICTED**)

Confidential Files, 1985, 1994 (4 folders)