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October 11, 2012.

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**Abstract**

The First Reformed Church of Muskegon had its origins in the Sunday gatherings of the early Dutch settlers to the area in the 1850s. The oldest Reformed church in Muskegon, this RCA congregation was organized on June 22, 1859, after official meetings for a church organization by the Rev. P. J. Oggel and Elder J. Mieras, appointed by the Classis of Holland, Michigan. An early election disruption of Consistorymen in 1862 was serious enough to call upon the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte to settle. Rev. W. A. Houbolt from Albany, New York, became the first pastor of the church in 1863, and a new church building was erected shortly afterward in 1866. The church building was ready for use on October 23, 1866, and was enlarged in 1873. The first church council consisted of the elders Nikolaas Zuidema and Jakob de Haas and thedeacons Gerrit Nanninga and Isaac Brandt, who were chosen on the day of organization. By 1895, a Christian Endeavor Society was active from within the church. A church organ was installed in 1900. An English-speaking service first occurred in 1891, but a weekly English service wasn’t established until 1913. By 1920, services were conducted in Dutch and English on alternate weekends. The church often contended with Unity Reformed and Third Reformed Church, both of Muskegon, for members. Regular building and improvements insured a modern, American atmosphere of worship. One of the largest projects was a new church building, which was completed in 1951.

This collection consists of books, booklets, hymnbooks, Bibles, workbooks and objects of the First Reformed Church of Muskegon, Michigan. Includes materials from associated Reformed Church colleges and organizations. Also included are financial reports, programs, and photographs (framed and unframed).

**Accession No:** H98-1340  
**Provenance:** First Reformed Church of Muskegon  
**Donor:** First Reformed Church of Muskegon  
**Processed by:** Michael Douma, July 2002, July 2003

**History**

The First Reformed Church of Muskegon had its origins in the Sunday gatherings of the early Dutch settlers to the area in the 1850s. The oldest Reformed church in Muskegon, this RCA congregation was organized on June 22, 1859, after official meetings for a church organization by the Rev. P. J. Oggel and Elder J. Mieras, appointed by the Classis of Holland, Michigan. An early election disruption of Consistorymen in 1862 was serious enough to call upon the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte to settle. Rev. W. A. Houbolt from Albany, New York, became the first pastor of the church in 1863 and a new church building was erected shortly afterward in 1866. The church building was ready for use on October 23, 1866, and was enlarged in 1873. The first church council consisted of the elders Nikolaas Zuidema and Jakob de Haas and thedeacons Gerrit Nanninga and Isaac Brandt who were chosen on the day of organization. By 1895, a Christian Endeavor Society was active from within the church. A
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Scope and Content

This collection consists of books, booklets, hymnbooks, Bibles, workbooks and objects of the First Reformed Church of Muskegon, Michigan. Includes materials from associated Reformed Church colleges and organizations. Also included are financial reports, programs, and photographs (framed and unframed).

Container List

Box 1

100th Anniversary, 1959

Books

- Arabic, n.d.
- Be Confident, Wiersbe, Warren W., Victor, 1985
- Belonging to God, Krame, Frederick D., Concordia, 1965
- Blessings of Suffering, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1975
- Een Man Des Volks, Boer, Prof. G. E., Grand Rapids, 1904
- Glory Awaits Me, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1973
- Game for Today, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1977
- Jesus the Messiah, Kiehl, Erich H., Concordia, 1967
- Living the Heidelberg, Verhey, Allen, CRC, 1986
- My Second Valley, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1971
- Never on Your Own, Spykman, Gordon J., CRC, 1969
- O Mais Importante eis Amor, Brazil, 1972
- Serving God Always, Kuntz, Arnold G., Concordia, 1966
- The Gospel in Paul’s World, Kiehl, Erich H., Concordia, 1965
- The Problem of Wineskins, Snyder, Howard A., Inter-Varsity, 1975
- These Also Suffer, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1981
- Uit Het Hart Tot Het Hart, Hendrikson, B.A., Kalamazoo, 1916
- Victory Over Suffering, Goulooze, William, Baker, 1978

Booklets

- Bible Lessons for Juniors, Van Der Veer, Andrew, 1905
- Bill Gaither Choir Series, 1973
- Catechetical/Sacred History, DeJong, 1933
- Christian Doctrine, Hylkema and Tuuk, n.d.
- Five Steps of Christian Growth, Campus Crusade, 1976
Rejoice in the Lord, Eerdmans, 1984
Study of the Heidelberg Catechism, n.d.

Central College
Bulletins, 1949, 1952 (2 folders)
Catalog, 1953

Correspondence, Hine, Rev. Richard, 1973
Easter Services, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1973
Financial Reports, 1944, 1949

Box 2

Installation Service, Rev. Cornelius Muyskens (biographical info.), 1950
Liturgy, RCA, Eerdmans, 1935
Liturgy and Psalms, 1956
Photographs
Church Front (Spring Street), n.d.
Consistory, 1909-1934 (2 folders)
Ladies Missionary Society, 1934
Rev. W. A. Houbolt (1864-1871), n.d.
Rev. J. Luxen (1899-1918), n.d.
Rev. and Mrs. Luxen, Emilie and Sumner, n.d.
Rev. W. Moerdyk (1889-1892), n.d.
Rev. J. VanderMeulen (1872-1888), n.d.
Women’s Group, n.d.
Pins, Good New People, n.d.
Pins and Stickers, Sunday School Awards, n.d.
Plaque, Children’s Retreat, Grand Rapids, n.d.
Programs
50 Year Anniversary (In Dutch), 1909
70 Year Anniversary, 1929
90 Year Anniversary, 1949
92 Year Anniversary, 1951
Sheet Music, The Lord is Counting on You, 1953
Songsheet, 100th Anniversary, 1959
Student Workbooks, 1965, 1966
Teacher Manuals, CRC, 1965
Vacation School Attendance Cards, 1979
Western Theological Seminary, The Heart of the Church, 1953
Workbook
Concordia Primary Religion Series, 1967
Concordia Weekday Series, 1967
Our Bible Doctrine Course, Walters, D. H., 1938, 1964
RCA, n.d.
Three Steps to Happiness, Ridder, Douma Publications, 1958
Through the Bible in a Year, 1975

Box 3

Hymnbooks
Christian Life Songs, n.d. (2 copies)
Christian Service Songs, 1939
Favorite Hymns, n.d.
Favorite Hymns, 1953
Gospel Solos and Duets No. 3, 1938
Gospel Quarters, 1966
Great Hymns of the Faith, 1983
Hymnal for the American Youth, 1919
Hymns for the Family of God, 1976
Hymns of Childhood, Tullar-Meredith Co., 1939
Hymns of Faith, 1984
Hymns of Praise, 1926, 1946 (2 books)
Inspiring Hymns, 1951, 1983 (2 books)
Living Praise Hymnal, 1981
Male Chorus No. 1, 1888
Modern Quartets for Men, 1932, 1938 (2 books)
New Hymnal for Christian Youth, 1931
Rejoice and Sing, 1958
Songs of Summerland, 1943
The Book that reads You, Hageman, Howard, 1962
The Hymnbook, Presbyterian, 1952
The New Church Hymnal, 1937
The Service Hymnal, 1932, 1938 (3 books)
Worship and Service Hymnal, 1975

Box 4

Objects
Phonograph Record, Go Forth in His Name, n.d.
Communion Materials, n.d. (2 boxes)
Dutch Bibles, 1898, n.d. (2 books)
Large Dutch Bibles, n.d.

Box 5

Objects (cont.)
Christian Endeavor Content Banner, Third Place, n.d.
Large Banner, 125th Anniversary, 1984
Communion Serving tool (?), n.d.
Box 6

Oversized Photographs
  Consistory, 1909
  Meester Van Leeuwen, Teacher of the Hollandsche School, n.d.
  Property of First Reformed Church, 1908, 1909 (2 images)
  Unidentified Men’s Group, n.d.
Lesson Picture Roll, 1948