
Western Theological Seminary

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**Abstract**

Settlers arrived in America from the Netherlands as an organized church in 1848. East Overisel Reformed Church (former name) was formed in 1872. A small church was built in 1883, and they worshipped in the new building in 1887. A parsonage was built in 1896. A new church was built and dedicated in 1915. The first English service was conducted in the evening in 1920. The church’s name was changed from East Overisel to Bentheim Reformed Church in 1943. A new church was built and dedicated in 1971.

Ministers that served are as follows: William Wolvius, May 1896-November 1898; Jacob Poppen, December 1898-May 1902 and November 1914-November 1917; Foppe Klooster, July 1902-April 1906; Henry E. Tellman, July 1906-April 1911; Herman Van Der Ploeg, July 1911-September 1914; Paul E. A. Schroeder, November 1917-November 1921; Albert H. Strabbing, August 1922-September 1925; Albert Oosterhof, November 1925-September 1934; Anthony Van Harn, April 1935-January 1945; Albert Mansen, September 1945-July 1951; Clarence J. Denekas, August 1952-March 1967; John C. Hanse, November 1967-1991; Ronald J. Ver Wys since 1992. Collection includes bulletins, consistory minutes, financial records, Sunday School records, and photographs.

Accession No: W07-1321
Provenance: Bentheim Reformed Church
Donor: Isabelle Hanse
Photographs: 17 images (Box 2)
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, April 2009

**History**

Settlers arrived in America from the Netherlands as an organized church in 1848. East Overisel Reformed Church (former name) was formed in 1872. A small church was built in 1883, and they worshipped in the new building in 1887. A parsonage was built in 1896. A new church was built and dedicated in 1915. The first English service was conducted in the evening in 1920. The church’s name was changed from East Overisel to Bentheim Reformed Church in 1943. A new church was built and dedicated in 1971.

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Scope and Content

Collection includes bulletins, consistory minutes, financial records, Sunday School records, and photographs.

Container List

Box 1

Allegan County Ministerial Association, Minutes, 1944
Anniversary, 50th, March 1937
Anniversary, 100th, 1873-1973, March 1973
Baptism Records, 1968-1994
Bulletins, December 1937-December 1987 (17 folders, scattered)
Cadet Sunday, January 25, 1987
Christian Endeavor, Constitution, Topics, n.d., 1943, 1945
Church Library, Books, 1943, 1945
Consistory Minutes, September 1, 1922-June 29, 1959 (bound volume)
Correspondence
  Anthony Van Harn, 1944, 1945
  John Hanse, 1967
Dedications
  Baptismal Font, February 1943
  Christian Flag, May 24, 1942
  Services, November 29, 30, and December 1, 1971
Dismission Records, 1965-1975
Essay Contest, 1938
Final Statement of Bentheim Creamery Co., 1937
Finances
  Building Fund, 1969-1975
  Financial Reports, 1923-1928; 1937-1974 (scattered)

Box 2

Finances (cont.)
  Receipts, Building of Bentheim Church, February 1971-August 1972 (3 folders)
  Records, Building of Bentheim Church, 1971
  Records of Income, 1898-1928, 1922-1929 (bound volumes) (2 folders)
History, 1971
Installation Service, John C. Hanse, 1967
Member Records
  Book 2, 1918-1922 (Dutch) (bound volume)
  Book 1, 1922-1948 (bound volume)
  1967-1990 (handwritten)
Memorial Service
Chester Boerman, September 30, 1943
Willis Groenheide, June 30, 1944
Stanley Schipper, October 20, 1944
Miscellaneous, n.d.
Missionaries, Correspondence, n.d., 1987
Nominating Ballot, 1985, 1987
Photographs
Bentheim Reformed Church, n.d., January 3, 1973 (8 images)
Individual
Foppe Klooster, 1901-1906, n.d. (1 image)
Albert F. Manson, 1951 (1 image)
Paul E. A. Schroeder, 1918-1921, n.d. (1 image)
Herman Van Der Ploeg, 1911-1914, n.d. (1 image)
Anthony Van Harn, 1935-1945, n.d. (1 image)
William Wolvius, 1896-1898, n.d. (1 image)
Servicemen, 1944
Sunday School
Christmas Program, 1937-1986 (scattered)
Reports, 1937-1943
Weddings, 1972-1997

Box 3 (Oversized)

Photographs
Groups
Bentheim Congregation, n.d. (1 image)
Reverend Albert F. Manson Family, 1951 (1 image)
Unidentified, n.d. (1 image)