
Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

Central College class of 1951; Western Theological Seminary class of 1954; National University of Utrecht (Netherlands) class of 1959. Pastor of First Reformed Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (1957-1960); missionary to India (1960-1970); Central College chaplain (1970-1976); Western Theological Seminary professor (1976-1982); Secretary of the General Program Council of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) (1982-1994). Collection includes the book, Our Song of Hope, draft copies, articles, background material; correspondence, Heritage & Hope Series, Heideman’s missionary work in India, lecture notes, articles and speeches.

Accession No: W88-0048.2
Provenance: Eugene P. Heideman
Donor: Eugene P. Heideman
Photographs: 7 images (Box 2)
Processed by: Chad A. Boorsma, November 1994
Leon Witteveen, August 1998
Elaine Bruins, May 2010
Katheryn Irwin, April 2018

Biography

Eugene Paul Heideman was born in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, in 1929. He graduated from Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1951 and Western Theological Seminary in 1954. In 1959, Heideman received his Doctorate of Theology from the National University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

In 1957, Heideman became pastor of the First Reformed Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He served there until 1960 when he entered upon missionary work in India. Heideman concluded his missionary service in 1970 when he became chaplain and a professor at his alma mater, Central College, where he served until 1976 when he became a professor at Western Theological Seminary. In 1984, Heideman became part of the staff of the General Program Council of the Reformed Church, a position he held until his retirement in 1994.

Scope and Content

A large portion of the Eugene P. Heideman papers deal with his book, Our Song of Hope, which is a confession of faith published by the Reformed Church in America. Included in his papers are various draft copies, articles, background material, and a wealth of correspondence that depict the writing, editing, and publication processes. These materials tell of people’s reactions to the new confession of faith and Heideman’s response to them.

Another significant part of this collection is the correspondence written while Heideman was a minister in Canada. These letters show both the struggles and joys of serving as pastor in
what was then a new missionary effort of the Reformed Church in America.

Also included in the collection are materials relating to the Heritage & Hope Series, Heideman’s missionary work in India, lecture notes from courses taught at both Central College and Western Theological Seminary, and articles and speeches written throughout his career, particularly during his tenure as Secretary for Program of the General Program Council of the Reformed Church in America.

Container List

Box 1

Adult Education Program, Third Reformed Church, Holland, 2008
Archives Submissions, 1995-2005
Biographical Material, 1959-2011
Booklets
“There is so Much to Learn, Lord,” 1975
“A People in Mission: The Surprising Harvest,” 1980
“A People in Mission: Their Expanding Dream,” 1984
Chapel Talks, 1975-1982 (2 folders)
Collected Material
The Belhar Confession, 1982, 2007
Dubbink, n.d., 2005
H. P. Scholte, n.d., 2013
Jacob Van Der Meulen, n.d., 2012
Z. John, India, n.d.
Correspondence
Brownson, William C., 1985
Canada Work
Blaauw, Jacob, 1956-1960
General, 1956-1958
Oudersluys, Richard C., 1956-1961
Vanden Berg, Richard J., 1956-1958
Christmas Letters, 1961-1997
Clark, Nancy, 1992
General, 1992-2010
Hesselink, Dr. I. John, 1997-1998
India, General, 1971-1972
India, Missionary Letters, 1954-1964
Mast, Gregg, 1994
Re: “Reformed Church and Its Evolving Theology, 1860-76,” 1974
Van Dyk, Gerard, 1984

Draft Copies
“Jesus Saves,” n.d.
“The Lord’s Supper and Our Dinner Tables,” 1986 (2 folders)
“World Missions Study on Book of Matthew,” 1987

Box 2

“Environmental Factors Influencing Paul’s Use of Righteousness in the Epistle to the Romans,” 1953
Foreign Aid in Middle East, Action Alert, 1998
Honorary Degree, Central College, 1998
Iowa Forensic Association, 1951

Lectures
“Albertus C. Van Raalte, Leader and Liaison,” Hope College, 2011
“Conceived by the Holy Spirit,” n.d.
“Grace Upon Grace,” Lecture by John Hesselink at Western Seminary Alumni Lecture, 1998
“In the New Millennium: Beyond Judaism, Beyond Christianity,” 2000
“The Van Bunschooten Bequest,” n.d.
Warwick Fall Order Adult Fellowship (3 lectures), 1996

Lecture Notes
The American Experience, 1981-1982
Catechetical Preaching, 1981-1982
Christian Ethics, 1971-1972
Evangelism and Mission, 1979-1980
Four Prayers for Mission, n.d.
HASP Course, “The Purposes of Marriage,” 2004
Introduction to Theology, 1976-1977
New Testament (Central College), 1974
Old Testament (Central College), 1976
Our Reformed Heritage, 1976-1977
Preaching, 1978-1979
Preaching the Church Year, 1979-1980
Preaching Course for Ministers’ Wives, 1982
Preaching as a Teaching Ministry, 1982
World Missions, 1979-1980

Meditations
Prayer Time, 1960
Words of Hope, 1985

Missionary Progress Reports
Africa, 1983
Japan, 1983
Mexico, 1983
Middle East, 1983
Taiwan, 1983

Our Song of Hope
Articles, 1974-1976, n.d.
Background Material, 1971-1973
Correspondence, 1971-1977
    General, 1971-1977 (2 folders)
Cover, n.d.
Draft Copy, 1973
Draft Copy (Commentary Section), 1973
Music, 1974
Official Copy, n.d.
Publication/Distribution, 1974-1976
Study Guide, 1973
Trial Run, n.d.

Box 3

Pamphlets
    “Kerk en theologie,” 1997
    “Mission and Unity,” 1998
“A People in Mission: The Surprising Harvest,” 1980
Photographs, 1965, 1978 (10 images)
Play, “Mutuality in Mission,” 1985
Position Description, General Secretary and Secretary for Program, 1983
Programs
    Appreciation Dinner, 1982
    Bast Festival of Preaching, 1989
    Induction as Presbyter of St. George’s Cathedral, Madras, India, 1969
    Installation as Academic Dean, 1978
Proposal for Publication of a Book, n.d.
RCA Network for Middle East Peace, 1998
Reports
    Ad Hoc Committee on Power in World Mission, 1980
    Consultation on “Sharing Cross Cultural Richness of the Gospel,” 1994
    “Forty Years in the Life of the RCA,” n.d.
    “Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Church of South India,” 1997
    Joint Committee on Relationships and Responsibilities of Minority Councils
    and Denominational Policy Bodies, 1978
    Melbourne Conference of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism,
    W. C. C. 1980
“The RCA and World Mission,” GPC to General Synod, 1984
RCA Staff. 1990-1993
“Report on Visit to Israel/Palestine,” 1997
Secretary for Program, General Program Council, 1982-1991
Response to “Second Coming,” Article in Church Herald, 2007
Review and Comments on “Sent Free” by Emilio Castro, 1985
Review of Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America, 2015-2016
Roots of the United Church of Spring Valley, New York, n.d.
Speeches
“As to the Future Policy of the Reformed Church in Canada,” 1959
“Christian Farmer in Today’s World,” 1986
“Ed Mulder Night at General Synod,” 1994
“Forty Years in the Life of the Church,” 1990
“Habits of the Mind,” 1991
“R.C.A. Identity Emphasis and Its Theological Implications,” 1986
Special Services, 1985-1986
“Spirit of the R.C.A.” 1985
“A Tribute to Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys on the Occasion of his One Hundredth Birthday, November 21, 2006”
Writings
“The Bible in Public Life,” n.d.
“Why Dominie Hendrik P. Scholte Decided to Emigrate,” n.d.
“Ds. Hendrik Peter Scholte Estranged From His Colleagues,” n.d.
“The Elder in the Reformed Church in America,” 1991
“The Natural and Obvious Meaning of Scripture,” n.d.
“Praying in Public in the Name of Jesus,” 2007
“Proselytism, Mission, and the Bible,” n.d.
“R.C.A.: From Dutch Immigrant Church to Multiethnic Church,” 1995