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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

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

- Biographical Material, 1929-1996
- Book Reviews, 1987-2001
- Booklets
  - “There is so Much to Learn, Lord,” n.d.
  - “A People in Mission: The Surprising Harvest,” 1980
  - “A People in Mission: Their Expanding Dream,” 1984
- Chapel Talks, 1975-1982 (2 folders)
- Correspondence
  - Brownson, William C., 1985
  - Canada Work
    - Blaauw, Jacob, 1956-1960
    - General, 1956-1958
    - Oudersluys, Richard C., 1956-1961
  - Clark, Nancy, 1992
  - General, 1996-2002
  - 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
  - “Environmental Factors Influencing Paul’s Use of Righteousness in the Epistle to the Romans,” 1953
- Honorary Degree, Central College, 1998
- Lectures
  - “Conceived by the Holy Spirit,” n.d.
“In the New Millenium: Beyond Judaism, Beyond Christianity,” 2000
“The Van Bunschooten Bequest,” n.d.
Warwick Fall Order Adult Fellowship (3 lectures), 1996

Lecture Notes
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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

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Lecture Notes (cont.)
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
Memorial Service, A. L. Warnshuis, 1958

Missionary Progress Reports
Africa, 1983
India, 1982, 1984
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
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Publication/Distribution, 1974-1976
Study Guide, 1973
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Pamphlets
“Kerk en theologie,” 1997
“Mission and Unity,” 1998
“A People in Mission: The Surprising Harvest,” 1980

Photographs, 1965, 1978 (7 images)

Play, “Mutuality in Mission,” 1985

Position Description, General Secretary and Secretary for Program, 1983

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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.
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
Secretary for Program, General Program Council, 1982-1991

Review and Comments on “Sent Free” by Emilio Castro, 1985

Sermons
“A Menagerie or a Body?” n.d.
“No God But Allah,” October 2001
“Oh The Way,” 1992

Speeches
“Christian Farmer in Today’s World,” 1986
“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.
“The Elder in the Reformed Church in America,” 1991
“The Natural and Obvious Meaning of Scripture,” n.d.
“Proselytism, Mission, and the Bible,” n.d.
“R.C.A.: From Dutch Immigrant Church to Multiethnic Church,” 1995