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W89-1009. Vis, Jean A. (1883-1960). Papers, 1912-1944. 1.00 linear ft.

Western Theological Seminary

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W89-1009. Vis, Jean A. (1883-1960).
Papers, 1912-1944. 1.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope Preparatory School class of 1906; Hope College class of 1910; Western Theological Seminary class of 1913; and minister of the Reformed Church in America from 1913 until 1960. Materials include biographical information and sermons in both Dutch and English from 1912-1944.

Accession No: W89-1009
Provenance: Jean A. Vis
Donors: Bertha Vis Van Wyk, Gordon J. Van Wyk, and George C. Douma
Processed by: Larry J. Wagenaar, 1989
Chad A. Boorsma, June, 1994

Biography

Jean Abraham Vis was born in Waddingsveen, the Netherlands, on November 28, 1883. He received a Teacher's Certificate from the State Normal School in the Netherlands in April of 1903. His education continued in the United States at Hope Preparatory School, graduating in 1906; Hope College, graduating in 1910; and Western Theological Seminary, graduating in 1913.

On June 19, 1913, Vis married Bertha Van Kolken in Holland, Michigan. Together they had three children: Florence (Mrs. George Douma), Bertha (Mrs. Gordon Van Wyk), and Eugene.

During the summer of 1911, Vis served as student pastor of New Sharon Reformed Church in New Sharon, Iowa. The following summer, he served as student pastor at Cutting Reformed Church in Cutting, New York. In 1913, he returned to New Sharon, where he served as pastor from 1913-1917. Two pastorates following this included Ebenezer Reformed Church in Morrison, Illinois (1917-1922), and First Reformed Church in Sheldon, Iowa (1922-1950). Vis was also active on the Board of Trustees of both Central College and Hope College.

Jean Abraham Vis died on July 11, 1960.

Scope and Content

The large amount of sermons kept by Vis shows how he valued his messages. They provide a look at what topics might have been used for sermons in the years 1912-1944, or what topics were important to the congregation. The messages, which are written in either Dutch or English, illustrate the necessity for a pastor to be able to preach in both languages for congregations that had Dutch and English services. A few of the sermons are the complete text, but the majority are in outline form with added notes. Vis noted the time and place he preached each message on the back. The sermons are arranged in chronological order from the date he first preached the message.

This collection was originally donated in May of 1989 by Gordon and Bertha Van Wyk (Vis' daughter and son-in-law). The collection then doubled in size when George Douma (Vis' other son-in-law) gave additional materials in October, 1993.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical Information, n.d.
Sermons, 1912-1919 (7 folders)

Box 2

Sermons, 1920-1944 (5 folders)