
Abstract

Contains the records of Fourth Reformed Church from 1896-1986. Minutes, membership records, financial records, correspondence, annual directories, missionary correspondence and information, anniversary publications, photographs. Early consistory minutes and annual reports are in Dutch.

Accession No.: W91-1030
Provenance: Fourth Reformed Church
Custody agreement: Fourth Reformed Church
Photographs: 72 images (Box 2)
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, June 1992

History

Fourth Reformed Church was organized in 1896 by fourteen charter members, nine of whom came from the Third Reformed Church, four of whom came from the First Reformed Church, and one person as a member by confession of faith. They felt a need for a church in the western part of the city. The first church building was erected at 15th Street and Washington Avenue in 1896, and the parsonage was built in 1898. In 1912, the original church building was moved to the corner of 16th Street and Washington Avenue, and a new, larger church built in 1913. A new parsonage was built in 1952. An educational wing was added to the church building in 1961, and more remodeling completed in 1969. The congregation continues to use this facility at this time.

Scope and Content

Contains the records of Fourth Reformed Church from 1896-1986. The collection is made up of two subgroups, CHURCH RECORDS and MISSIONARY MATERIAL. The CHURCH RECORDS consist of minutes, membership records, financial records, correspondence, annual directories, anniversary publications and photographs. Early consistory minutes, membership records and annual reports are in Dutch. The folders have been arranged alphabetically by topical heading.

A keen interest in missions is indicated by the volume of the MISSIONARY MATERIAL which contains a scrapbook of former and present missionaries, as well as biographical information, letters, newsletters and assorted mission publications. One publication related the harrowing experience of Stan and Junia Schauers and their pilot when the small plane they were traveling in ran low on fuel and were forced to land on the bank of a river in the jungle of Colombia. Since maps of Colombia were very primitive, they could not be found for three days. Through the cooperation of several governmental and private organizations, they eventually were flown to safety. There are also photographs of former and present missionaries.
The missionary folders have been arranged alphabetically by country of service, and missionaries listed with their latest assignment.

Container List

Box 1

CHURCH RECORDS
Consistory minutes
   1896-1926 (Dutch) (4 vol.)
   1926-1983 (English) (5 vol.)
Elders meetings, 1953-1970 (2 vol.)

Box 2

CHURCH RECORDS
Membership records
   1896-1907 (Dutch) (1 vol.)
   1907-1922 (English) (1 vol.)
Anniversaries
   25th, Program, addresses, 1921 (Dutch)
   50th, Book, program, 1946
   75th, Book, program, 1971
Annual reports
   1915-1923 (Dutch) (1 folder)
   1942-1978 (scattered) (English) (3 folders)
Buurma, Carl, Memorial poem by William De Young (son of A. W. De Jonge), 1972
Buurma, Klaas, 1909-1932
Church Directory, 1978
Church Summer Camps, 1931, 1974
Correspondence
   Consistory, n.d., 1928, 1986
   General, n.d., 1919
Education Building dedication, 1962
Encounter House, 1973, 1974
Financial
   Church bids and contract, 1912
   Parsonage bids, 1898
   Preaching fees, n.d.
   Purchase of property, 1901
   Reports, 1930-1932, 1983
   Steffens House, n.d.
Ministers
   Blauw, Stuart, 1962
Fourth Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
W91-1030

Postma, Chester, 1976-1984
Van Dyke, Henry, 1955, 1976
Van Malsen, William P., 1970
Minutes, 1904 (Dutch)

Miscellaneous
  Dutch devotional, 1956 General Synod publication
  Service items, n.d.

Ordination services, Programs, 1973-1981
Reference material from other churches, n.d.
Rules and regulations for local churches, by Gerhard De Jonge, 1917

Photographs
  Individuals
  Buruma, Carl and Marg, n.d. (1 image)
  Custodian, church organists, 1946 (2 images)
  Pastors, De Jonge and Broekstra, n.d. (4 images)
  Van Dyke family, 1946 (2 images)

  Groups
  Choirs, 1946 (4 images)
  Consistory, 1900, 1946 (3 images)
  General Synod, Asbury Park, N. J., 1938 (oversize and roll) (1 image)
  Sunday School teachers and officers, 1946 (2 images)
  Women's organizations, 1938, 1946, 1971 (6 images)
  Youth organizations, 1946 (4 images)

Fourth Reformed Church, 1946, 1971 (6 images)
Fiftieth Anniversary book pictures, 1946 (27 images)

Missionaries
  Andersson, Stig and Karen, n.d. (2 images)
  Beech, Mr. and Mrs., n. d. (1 image)
  Beekman, Bill and Vandalee, n.d. (1 image)
  Muyskens family, n.d. (1 image)
  Nienhuis, Jean, n.d. (2 images)
  Young, Ruth, n.d. (1 image)

Box 3

MISSIONARY MATERIALS

Arabia
  Bosch, Donald and Eloise, n.d.
  Dekker, Wilbur and Anna Mae, n.d.
  Kapenga, Jay and Marjory, n.d.
  Luidens, Edwin and Ruth (Stegenga), n.d.
  Veldman, Jeanette, n.d.

Bolivia, Alderink, Alys, n.d.
Brazil, Halverson, Emil and Alice (Nyboer), Farewell hymn, address honoring Halversons, n.d.
Canada, Van Dyke, Lynda, n.d.
Colombia, Schauers, Stan and Junia (Halverson), n.d. (includes address relating missionary work in Colombia)
Hong Kong, de Velder, Walter and Harriet, n.d.
India
   Boomstra, Dora, 1964
   De Weerd, Esther Jane, n.d.
Japan
   Bruggers, Glenn and Phyllis, n.d.
   Korver, Ronald and Ruby, n.d.
   Kuyten, Rudolf and Trina, n.d.
Mexico
   de Voogd, Albert and Nita
      Letter, n.d.
      Charm and Challenge of Chiapas, No. 4, 1958
   Heneveld, James and Sharon, Brochure, Missionary Orientation Center at Stony Point, New York, 1963
   Stegenga, Henry and Charmaine, n.d.
Philippines
   Hill, Jack and Joann, Letter, 1959
   Holkeboer, Tena, n.d.
   Nieuwsma, C., Christmas Greeting, 1966
U.S.A.
   Beekman, Bill and Vandalee, Letter, 1968 (Photograph in Box 2)
   D&D Missionary Homes, 1959
   Hoekstra, Dennis and Carol, Letters, Newsletter, 1966 (2 images)
   Near East Relief, Letters, 1923
   Parkview Community Reformed Church, Booklet, n.d.
   Reformed Church in America, Brochure, n.d.
   Van Galen, Herman E., Letter, 1966
   Woodson, Jethro J., Letter, 1959
   Zap, Robert and Joyce, Brochure, Mescalero National Fish Hatchery, New Mexico, n.d.

Oversize

   Scrapbook of former and present missionaries, 1924-1966
   United Society of Christian Endeavor certificate, 1915