

# Finding Aid

## Reformed Church in America

### EAST SIOUX CLASSIS ARCHIVES

1918 - 1994

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## Introduction

The East Sioux Classis Archives document the corporate institutional life of a regional classis of the Reformed Church in America based in northwest Iowa in the mid and late twentieth century. The records include the minutes of the classis and related material. Collectively, these archives provide evidence for the historical growth of a multi-generational Dutch-immigrant Protestant denomination in the trans-Mississippi prairies and northern plains over seventy-five years.

Size: 2.25 m

Provenance: Presumably, these records were deposited by one or more classis official.

Restrictions, copying, and permission to publish and citations: Use of these materials, copying, permission to publish and citations are subject to the specifications of the General Synod Council of the Reformed Church in America. Contact Russell Gasero, Reformed Church in America Archives, 21 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, Fax (732) 249-5412, E-mail [rgasero@rca.org](mailto:rgasero@rca.org).

Processing Notes: This arrangement and finding aid were completed in 2015 by Doug Anderson.

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## Historical Notes

The [Reformed Church in America](#) traces its beginnings to the celebration of communion in the colony of New Amsterdam in 1628 (the local church begun then exists today as the [Collegiate Reformed Church, New York City](#)). Although the Dutch colony became the British colony of New York later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, services in the English language did not begin until the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. After the American War of Independence, the Reformed denomination also established its independence from the Netherlands. The denomination was incorporated in 1819 as the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church; it became the Reformed Church in America in 1867.

Confessions: Historic statements of belief formally affirmed by the Reformed Church in America include the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort.

Polity: Each local Reformed church has a consistory, consisting of lay elders and deacons (elected by the congregation), and ordained minister(s). The clerk of consistory is responsible for the minutes; the consistory itself is responsible for the oversight of the life and order of the local church.

Multiple congregations in a geographic area form a classis. The classis consists of elected lay delegates (elders) and all the ministers enrolled in the classis. It has charge of the process of the training, examination, ordination, and oversight of clergy. It also has charge of overseeing local churches within its geographic bounds, including authorizing new ones and disbanding ones deemed no longer viable.

Multiple classes (plural of classis) form regional synods. (An older terminology is “particular synod.”) Regional synods consist of clergy and lay delegates from classes.

The denomination’s highest body is the General Synod. Minister and lay delegates from classes and regional synods, along with other authorized delegates, together have general superintendence of the whole church.

The Classis of West Sioux: East Sioux Classis, still flourishing, was organized in Rock Valley, Iowa, on September 11, 1918. This organization had been formally enabled by an earlier action of the Particular Synod of Chicago. The new classis was one of two created from dividing and dissolving Iowa Classis (the other new classis was West Sioux).

East Sioux was initially constituted by twenty-four congregations. Sixteen of them were in Iowa, one in Minnesota, three in Nebraska, and four in Kansas.

More recently, the classis boundaries have shrunk. Today, all sixteen churches of East Sioux are in northwest Iowa.

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## Related Materials

This collection is closely related to that of Iowa Classis (see its finding aid) and West Sioux Classis (see its finding aid). Further, when North Central Classis was dissolved in 1964 (see finding aid for Germania/North Central Classis), one of its congregations joined East Sioux.

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## Arrangement

The East Sioux Classis Archives is divided into nine units of a ledger, two boxes, and six cartons. The collection is largely chronological. The detailed arrangement is as follows:

<b>EAST SIOUX CLASSIS, 1918-1994</b>			
<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>DATES</b>
1 (ledger)		Minutes of Classis of East Sioux	1918-1929
2	mfilm (2) ledger 1 2 3 4 5	Minutes of Classis East Sioux Cash Book Incorporation Minutes Correspondence & Minutes [Temporary Notes] Reports W[estern] R[egional] C[enter] Newsletter	1930-1966 1918-1969 1951 1973-1975 1975 1964-1971 1979-1981
3 (carton)	binder binder binder 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	C[hurch] P[lanning] & D[velopment] Committee CP & D Committee Ministry Area Profile, Spirit Lake CP & D Committee Materials re closing of Trinity Church, Sibley CP & D Committee CP & D Committee UNI [Campus Ministry] Ames Student Ministries Real Life Ministries Lakes Church Start CP & D Committee Texas-Red River Omaha Mission Midwest Evangelism League, Okoboji San Antonio: A Survey Report Fort Worth: A Survey Report Tulsa: A Survey Report	1983-1986 1986-1988 1993 1989-1990 2001 1987-1997 1998-1999 1992-1997 1993-1995 1994-1997 1993-1995 1991-1994 1991-1995 1993-1994 1992-1995 c. 1990 c. 1990 c. 1990
4 (carton)	binder	East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed]	1930-1932

	binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder	East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed] East Sioux Classis Minutes [typed]	1933-1936 1937-1940 1941-1944 1944-1948 1949-1953 1953-1958 1958-1964 1964-1966
5 (carton)	binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder	Ministerial Relations Committee [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.]	1968-1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976-1977 1977-1978 1978 1979 1980 1981
6 (carton)	binder binder binder binder binder binder binder binder	[Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.]	1982-1983 1983-1984 1984-1985 1985-1986 1986-1987 1987-1988 1988-1989 1990
7 (carton)	binder binder binder binder	[Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.] [Committees, correspondence, etc.]	1991 1992 1993 1994
8 (carton)	1 2 3 4 5 6  7 8 9 10 11  12	Proposed Amendments Record Retention Roll Call Stated Clerk Manuals Stated Clerk Meetings State [of] Religion  Student Care Van Bunschooten Bequest Constitution and By Laws Heartland [Particular Synod of the West] Legal Documents  Committees—Minister's Salary	1971-1979 1973 1989 1982 1973 1980-1981, 1989 1975-1988 1936, 1959 1916-1992 1973-1983 1950, 1952, 1963 1972-1989

	13	Miscellaneous Reports	1957-1990
	14	Committees—Missions	1981
	15	Committees—Nominations	1972-1982
	16	Notices	1972-1987
	17	Ordination-Installation Services	1982-1989
	18	Committees—Ministerial Relations	1975-1980
	19	Pastoral Care	1972-1989
	20	Correspondence	1972-1973, 1990
	21	Committees—Doctrines & Overtures	1963-1972
	22	Committees—Doctrines & Overtures	1973-1988
	23	Committees—Evangelism	1979
	24	Committees—Finance & Stewardship	1971-1989
	25	Admission & Dismissal	1977-1989
	26	Agenda	1972-1989
	27	Area Youth	1972-1981
	28	Committees—Christian Action	1972
	29	Committees—Church Planning & Development	1972-1985
	30	Executive Committee	1970-1986
	31	Consistorial Reports	1984
	32	Consistorial Reports	1989
9	notebook	[Draft] Minutes	1924-1926
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	1932
	notebook	Journal [Draft Minutes]	1932-1936
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Apr. 14, 1936- Sept. 12, 1938
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Sept. 8, 1936- Feb. 16, 1942
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Apr. 11, 1939- Mar. 25, 1942
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Mar. 24, 1942- June 9, 1947
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Sept. 8, 1942- Mar. 26, 1947
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	1951-1952
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	1952-1953
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	1954-1955
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Sept. 15, 1954- Sept. 10, 1957
	notebook	[Draft Minutes]	Mar. 27, 1956- Mar. 27, 1958