

Finding Aid

MATLOCK REFORMED CHURCH

1915 - 1987

RCA 2.2

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Introduction

The Matlock Reformed Church collection documents the corporate institutional life of a congregation in Sioux County, Iowa. The records include the minutes of the consistory and membership books. Occasionally, other materials are also included, such as treasurer's records, young people's society records, clippings, letters of reminiscence, and photographs. Collectively, these archives provide evidence for the history of rural and small town religious life in the trans-Mississippi prairies and northern plains over the span of a hundred years.

Size: 3 linear feet

Provenance: These records were deposited at various times by congregational or classis officials.

Restrictions, copying, and permission to publish and citations: For more information about such specifications contact Russell Gasero, Reformed Church in America Archives, 21 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, Fax (732) 249-5412, E-mail rgasero@rca.org.

Processing Notes: This arrangement and finding aid were completed in June-July 2007 and May 2010 by Doug Anderson.

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Historical Notes

The Reformed Church in America (www.rca.org) 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 17th century, services in the English language did not begin until the mid-18th 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 organizing 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 assembly 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.

Matlock Reformed Church, Matlock, Iowa: Organized 1915; disbanded 1987. East Sioux Classis. Dutch language through August 1926.

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Related Materials

Since the Matlock Reformed Church was part of the East Sioux Classis, information directly and indirectly related to the congregation could be found in the East Sioux Classis Archives.

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Arrangement

The Matlock Reformed Church collection is in five boxes and one carton. It is arranged chronologically within each major congregational body, office, function, or kind of record. Structurally, Reformed congregations are centered on the consistory. The dates for the organization and disbanding of the congregation are based on *Historical Directory of the Reformed Church in America*, ed. Russell L. Gasero (modified by internal evidence as necessary). The detailed arrangement is as follows:

MATLOCK REFORMED CHURCH, Matlock, Iowa, 1915-1987			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	1 (ledger)	[Consistory Minutes.]	1915-1932
	2 (ledger)	Consistory Minutes.	1932-1942
	3 (ledger)	Consistory Minutes.	1942-1949
	4 (ledger)	Consistory Minutes.	1949-1963
	5 (ledger)	Consistory Minutes.	1963-1973
2	1 (ledger)	[Consistory Minutes.]	1974-1987
	2 (ledger)	Membership Records.	1915-1961
	3	Annual Consistorial Reports [of Statistics to the Classis]	1923-1942, 1944-1950, 1952-1953, 1956-1957
3	1 (binder)	Dismissed, Inactive, and Deceased Members Records.	1950s-1980s
	2 (binder)	[Membership Records.]	1970s-1980s
	3	Charter member cards.	n.d.
	4	Record of Baptism stubs.	1920-1973
	5	Certificate of Dismission stubs.	1931-1987
	6	Disciplinary letters.	1956
4	1	Transfer certificates into Matlock.	1916-1952
	2 (ledger)	[Treasurer's Records.]	1929-1943
	3 (ledger)	[Treasurer's Records.]	1944-1951
	4 (ledger)	[Treasurer's Records.]	1952-1954
	5 (ledger)	[Records of envelope donations.]	1940-1945
	6 (ledger)	[Records of envelope donations.]	1943-1948
	7 (ledger)	[Records of envelope donations.]	1949-1954
	8 (ledger)	[Benevolence receipts and disbursements.]	1958-1987
5 (half box)	1 (ledger)	[Treasurer's Records.]	1977-1980
	2 (ledger)	[Treasurer's Records.]	1980-1983
	3	Miscellaneous financial and legal documents.	1915-1956
	4 (ledger)	[Men's Bible Society Minutes.]	1932-1945
	5	Miscellaneous directories, service bulletins, and congregation histories	1940-1985
	6	Photographs.	n.d.
6	n.a.	Matlock Reformed Church rubber stamp; silver plate	n.d.

(carton)		chalice cups (2), bowl, pitcher, and plates (2); towels (3, including one monogrammed).	
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