





MRS. CLARA B. PORTER
First President



MRS. JOHN B. PIKE
First Treasurer

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Mrs. Clara B. Porter

Mrs. Porter was the first President of the Union. Her husband, the Reverend C. F. Porter, was Pastor of the Reformed Church of Lodi, N.Y. at that time. Mrs. Porter now resides at 17 Howard St., Geneva, N.Y., and sends the following message:

"I recall with pleasure my association with the Missionary Union of the Classis of Rochester, and most heartily congratulate you on your 50 years of active service in spreading the Gospel of Christ. In these years of great unrest, may you never lose faith in Christ's rich promises.

Very sincerely,
Clara B. Porter.

3.
"Ye SHALL HALLOW THE FIFTIETH YEAR."
Leviticus 25:10.

"Ye shall hallow the fiftieth year":
This message to Israel came.
With worship and offerings, rejoicing
and praise
They offered their thanks in God's
name.

And, "Freedom shalt thou proclaim in
the land:
This year shall all bondmen go free."
Thus, of men and possessions God said
in that day,
"You and yours all belong unto me."

How shall we now hallow our fiftieth year?
The pattern for us, too, is plain.
In joyful remembrance we thankfully
yield
Self and goods For His service again.

We'll proclaim to all peoples their
freedom in Christ;
That they share in God's love as do we;
Ourselves all surrendered to Jesus, our
Lord,
We will hallow this year of Jubilee.

(Mrs. Garret) Grace Hoekje Hondelink.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Responding to the efforts of two Women's Boards of Missions of the Reformed Church in America, a group of missionary-minded women, representing churches in the Classis of Rochester, met in convention in the Second Reformed Church of Rochester, N.Y. on the afternoon of March 16, 1893. Also present were Mrs. Edmund B. Horton, Corresponding Secretary of the Women's Executive Committee of the Board of Domestic Missions, later called the Women's Board of Domestic Missions and Miss Olivia H. Lawrence, secretary for India of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions. Under their leadership, the Women's Missionary Union of Rochester Classis was organized that evening.

Mrs. C. F. Porter of Lodi, N.Y. was elected President, and Miss Joan M. Hopeman of Rochester, Treasurer. Vice-presidents, one from each society in the Union, were as follows: - Mrs. John Van Westenberg, Brighton Church, Rochester; Mrs. VandeVelde, Clymer; Mrs. Harry Ten Haken, Clymer Hill; Mrs. M. Eylenberg, Farmer (now Interlaken); Mrs. William Schoonerman, Marion; Miss Perduyn, Newark; Miss Nellie Wisse (later Mrs. Abram Claerbout), Pultneyville; Mrs. I. Steyaert, First Rochester; and Mrs. M. DeMallie, Second Rochester.

The purpose of the Union was, "to further the cause of missions in our churches, to organize a Woman's Missionary Society in every Church, and to have those societies already formed become Auxilliary Societies to the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, and the Women's Executive Committee of the Board of Domestic Missions."

Originally, the Annual Conferences were held in connection with the Spring

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Session of the Classis, with afternoon and evening meetings only. The evening session joined with the public meeting of the Classis, with an address by one or more of the speakers who had addressed the Union in the afternoon. At the Second Conference in 1894, in the First Reformed Church of Rochester, N.Y., there were 24 delegates, representing 7 churches. Mrs. J.B. Pike of Rochester was elected Treasurer of the Union at this meeting.

In 1896 the total membership of the Missionary societies in the Classis was 276, and the total amount given by them to missions was \$647.13. Because the churches were so widely separated, only 14 delegates attended this Conference, held in the E. Williamson Reformed Church. In 1901, the time of the Annual Conference was changed to the September Meeting of the Classis.

At the 25th Annual Conference, held Sept. 27, 1917 in the Brighton Church, Rochester, which that year was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its own organization, over 300 delegates, represented 14 societies. Five charter members were honored. Greetings were given in three languages, Winnebago, Telugu, and English, by the speakers, Mrs. Louisa Bear, a Winnebago Indian, Miss Sarella Te Winkel, missionary to India, and Miss Sarah Bussing, representing the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions. In response to Mrs. Bear's suggestion that the Union provide a \$75.00 scholarship for an Indian boy, over \$90.00 was given as a Special Anniversary Thankoffering.

The Conferences have always been held in Wayne, or Monroe Counties, except in 1895 in Lodi; and in 1930 in Interlaken, when that church was celebrating its 100th anni-

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versary. Until 1935, a part of the morning program was in the Holland language, and because there are still a large numbers of the members who understand that language, a Holland Psalm is still sung at nearly every Conference.

In order to give a larger number of the women of the Rochester Classis an opportunity to share in the fellowship and inspiration of a Conference, the two Women's Boards in 1920 graciously agreed to set up an additional Conference in the west end of the Classis, for women in the Churches of Clymer, Clymer Hill, and Buffalo. For several years, all local arrangements were made by the Pastors' wives, but on Sept. 30, 1930, the Conference was fully organized. The first officers were President, Mrs. J. P. Winter; Vice-president, Mrs. G. Timmer; and Sec., Mrs. G. Ton. While having their own organization, they share in the missionary projects of the Rochester Classical Union, and are closely bound to it. Their meeting places have alternated between Clymer and Clymer Hill, except once, in 1940, in the city of Buffalo.

About 1909, Rochester Women's Missionary Union began meeting on a separate day from the Classis Meeting, and for morning and afternoon sessions. An evening meeting for the Young Women's Societies was added at the Conference in Palmyra, Oct. 7, 1920; and this practice continued until 1930. That year, the Conference was held in Interlaken Church, where, because of distance, it was deemed best to omit the evening meeting. Instead, on the evening of May 22, 1931, under the direction of the Classical Representative for Young Women's Work, Mrs. David Bogard, a Young Women's Banquet was held in Second Marion Church. It was the first of many successful banquets

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for members of the Leagues for Service and their friends; all under the direction of the representatives for Young Women's Work, and their Committees of one member from each Young Women's Society in the Classis together forming the Young Women's Committee of the Union.

At the 40th Annual Conference held in Newark on Sept. 29, 1932, numerous amendments were adopted to revise the first Constitution dated 1908. By this Revised Constitution, the Executive Committee was made to consist of the officers of the Missionary Union, and one representative from each organization in the Union, chosen by that organization; Classical Representatives of the Women's Boards; and all members of the two Women's Boards, who reside in the Classis.

On March 23, 1933 in First Church Rochester, was held the first Spring Meeting of the Union Executive Committee, continued annually ever since. The morning business session of the Executive Committee is devoted to hearing reports, and planning for future activities. A luncheon open to all women of the Churches is followed by a program devoted largely to a discussion of methods of work. By this policy, the Fall Conference program is left with ample time for inspirational addresses.

At the Executive Committee meeting on March 24, 1936, it was decided henceforth to omit the forenoon session of the Fall Conference, and hold only afternoon and evening sessions, putting forth efforts to make this evening session appealing to the whole Church, including the young people. As the General Synod was to meet in the First Reformed Church of Rochester in June 1936, it was decided to hold the Annual Young

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Women's Banquet during General Synod week. This was done on June 8th under the direction of Miss Julia Heines, and a local committee, with an attendance of 288. Other Synod meetings in which our Union members had a part were the Women's Supper Wednesday evening, June 3rd, in Brighton Church, and Ladies Day, June 9th in the Second Reformed Church.

Through the years, the Union has supported various projects, beginning in 1909 with an annual gift of \$50.00 for Parish work in Madanapalle, India. The next year the Union voted to raise an additional \$50.00 for work among the Japanese in New York City, and among the American Indians. In 1911, at the request of Mrs. Taber Knox, representing the W.B.D.M., the Union voted to raise an additional \$150.00 a year, for a camp-meeting among the Winnebago Indians.

As time went on, the Women's Boards requested greater pledges from the Union, and on May 13, 1922, Mrs. Garret Hondelink, then President of the Union wrote as follows to the various societies:-

"I am very proud of the Women's Missionary Union of the Classis of Rochester. Just one year ago, we began to talk of the possibility of our Union's raising \$800.00 a year for the salary of our own missionary. Now I am thankful to tell you that our Treasurer, Miss Van Doorn, has received over \$900.00 for the salary of Miss Clara Coburn, Madanapalle, India. Brighton Church stands first with a gift of \$141.00; First Rochester is second with \$132.00; Clymer is third with \$101.50; and Ontario fourth, with \$62.00.

The support of this Foreign Missionary project has continued until the present time. The minutes of the Conference

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of Oct. 1, 1929, state that a motion was carried to accept Miss Boyenga of Dulce, N.M., as our missionary. Two years later, Oct. 1, 1931, it was voted to apply \$600.00 on the salary of the Reverend J.D. Simms, as Miss Boyenga was no longer in Dulce. Ever since, this amount has been given annually for the salary of the one in charge at the Dulce Indian Mission; who, since 1936, has been the Reverend John H. Keuning.

The first Treasurer's record of receipts, in 1896, reports a balance of 58¢, 7 churches having contributed \$10.00 in dues, though no mention is made of the amount of the offerings. In 1900, \$7.25 was sent to each Board. In 1910, \$101.50 was the total missionary contribution; in 1912, \$199.00. In 1922, 26 societies contributed \$1224.40; in 1929, \$1579.50. The total disbursements for 1943 were \$1626.13, with a balance on hand of \$95.86.

The total amount contributed by the Union during the fifty years of its existence is \$36,539.31. It must be remembered that, in addition to these sums passing through the hands of the Union's Treasurer for Union pledges to the Women's Boards, every society sent unpledged gifts directly to the Treasurers of the Boards, so that the total contributions by the women and girls of Rochester Classis, is a very considerable sum. Besides all this, the Churches of the Classis have for many years sent barrels of apples and various vegetables to supplement the food budgets of our Missions in Kentucky. In 1931, through extra gifts, over \$131.00 was sent for screening the Madanapalle Girls' School in India.

In the records we find the names of many who ably discharged the duties of their respective offices, and whose conse-

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crated leadership was an inspiration to all. There are a few, who through God's Providence were enabled to give many years of leadership to the Union, Mrs. Garret Hondelink served as President for 15 years; Mrs. John Lamar and Mrs. Henry Tellman each served as secretary for twelve years, and Miss Jennie Van Doorn as Treasurer for 27 years.

At various times, workers in the Union have been honored with life memberships in the Women's Boards. Mrs. Garret Hondelink, Mrs. Martin Van Doorn, Miss Jennie Van Doorn, Mrs. P.G.M. Bahler, and Mrs. Henry Tellman.

This brief sketch has sought to mention only the outstanding accomplishments, and to note the way in which the Master has carried on His work through one of the many divisions of His vast army. May the vision, courage, loyalty, faithfulness, and devotion of those who have gone before live in us, in order that greater things may be accomplished in the Name of Him who said, not only "Come unto Me," but also, "Go ye into all the world."

(Correction: The exact amount raised for screening the Madanapalle School was \$208.86.)

11.

GREETINGS TO THE UNIONS

It gives me peculiar joy and pleasure to extend the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the Reformed Church in America to the members of Missionary Unions of the Classis of Rochester upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of your organizations. Fifty years of devoted, consecrated service in the cause of missions!

The record of the past is a strong incentive for carrying on the work so nobly begun and carried on thru the years. The days ahead challenge us to even greater effort. Increasingly it becomes clearer that only the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will suffice for the "healing of the nations." The program of missions as outlined by our Lord is basic to the plan for a just and durable peace among the nations of the world.

The Reformed Church in America of which we are a part, rejoices with you as you pause at this milestone in your glorious record. May God continue to use you to His glory, and to the extension of His cause in the world.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Jacob Prins, President.
General Synod, R.C.A.

12.

This year marks fifty years of faith and endeavor in carrying out our Lord's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." We have been privileged to have a share in that endeavor during these last years of that time, and should feel loving gratitude that God has given us this opportunity. It is only thru us, and others like us, who have been brought into Christ's fellowship, that the message of goodwill and redemption can be carried. I rejoice that the Unions have come so far on the way. And inspite of war and sorrow, I know you will still carry on in faith, knowledge, and gifts. "God works in a mysterious way", and this world upset may bring many nations and peoples into His Kingdom.

My greetings and good wishes to you all.

Mrs. Henry M.) Lillian F. Bruins
President of the Rochester Union
1941-1943

Words cannot convey my love and gratitude for all the loving thoughts of me since I became your messenger to India 23 years ago. When my girls in the Mdanapalle School were dying with malaria, you sent me a Christmas gift for the screening. When the Board asked us to raise \$500.00 at the time of the depression, a member of one of your churches came to the rescue. And during this enforced stay at home, you still encourage, love, and give for the cause dear to me. Thank you for it all, and for your many personal messages of love, and your gifts through the years. Never a day passes but I thank Jesus that your choice fell on me, when you were looking for a foreign missionary. And, as in the past,

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so in the future, I shall pray that I may be worthy as a messenger of Christ for you.

My prayer for the Unions is that they may do even greater things for the future than they have done in the past, and that God may bless your every effort.

Yours gratefully and lovingly,
Clara M. Coburn

The Women's Board of Domestic Missions sends congratulations to the Missionary Unions of the Classis of Rochester on the celebration of their fiftieth Anniversary.

It is good to review the accomplishments of two and one half decades of Missionary work, not for the purpose of glorying in what has been done, but in realizing how steadily the work has grown. To me it is always interesting to note how much more has been accomplished in the last few years of a fifty-year period than in the first years.

Such realization gives us a feeling that nothing is impossible.

Our Reformed Church is given the high privilege of being entirely responsible for the spiritual life in certain isolated communities in the United States. We have responded to this opportunity in a magnificent way, but our task is by no means done. Each year brings a new challenge and it is thru the loyalty and consecrated support of such Unions as the Classis of Rochester, that we are able to meet these needs.

May God bless you all in the days ahead.
(Mrs. Norman Vincent) Ruth S. Peale
President of the Women's Bd of DomM.

14.

Thw Woman's Board of Foreign Missions

welcomes this opportunity to extend our heartiest greetings and good wishes to your organizations, and to every society which they represent.

We also express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the interest you have maintained in the work of the Woman's Board through these many years, and we know we may count on your continuing loyalty and support in days to come as we have in the past.

On this occasion we would remember all who have served faithfully as officers of the Unions, carrying the responsibility for the work.

We are especially mindful of those who have gone out from among you to dedicate their lives to missionary service, and those for whom you have undertaken a definite responsibility on the mission field. We know that your sympathy, gifts, and prayers have reached around the world, touching lives in the distant lands of China, India, Japan, and Arabia.

We trust that this celebration of fifty years of activity in helping to build the Kingdom of God, will be marked by an even greater endeavor to enlist the women of your Classis in the cause of International Goodwill and Christian World Fellowship.

(Mrs. David) Lillian Van Strien, Pres.
Woman's Board of Foreign Missions.

15.

Greetings and sincere congratulations upon the fiftieth anniversary of your labor for the Kingdom. It is our hope and prayer that our Lord may bless and lead you in the future so that you may continue to send the light that shall lead many lost souls to the Father's House.

While this has been a busy summer for your missionaries in Dulce, the attitude of the Indians and the community is fine as we begin a new school year. We feel that the prospects for the year ahead are especially bright, and we hope and pray that the Lord will guide us to take advantage of every opportunity to win souls for Him.

We are very grateful for your prayers and gifts. Yours is the assurance "that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

With sincere good wishes, we remain

Yours missionaries

John H. and Mrs. Keuning.

First Recorded Treas. Report, 1896-97	
Balance	.58
Dues from Societies	\$10.00
	<u>10.58</u>

No disbursements.

Mrs. J. B. Pike, Treasurer.

16.

Treasurer's Report 1942-1943

Receipts

Balance Oct 1, 1942	68.44
Conf Offerings	155.97
For Miss. Salaries	1391.28
Classical Dues	22.00
Special Gifts	84.30
	<u>1721.99</u>

Disbursements

Woman's Bd For, Miss.	936.00
Woman's Bd Dom. Miss.	690.13
	<u>1626.13</u>
Balance Oct. 1, 1943	95.86
	<u>1721.99</u>

FIFTY YEARS OF GIVING

Dues	749.08
Parish Work Madanapalle	2476.00
Japanese in America	696.23
Winnebago Fund	2884.00
Miss A. Boyenga	1046.00
Rev. J. Denton Simms	3611.83
Rev. John H. Keuning	4048.23
Miss Clara Coburn	17570.63
General Fund, W.B.D.M.	1724.59
Gen. Fd. W.B.F.M.	1732.72
	<u>36539.31</u>