

I should note that I am going to have to move a rapid speed in this phase of the course...less stories and personal reminiscences and more facts in quick order. I am also tracking out only the major bodies as we see them. I will give bibliographic material for most groups.

And this syllabus has got to return to a broader format... so you will see the blank space increasing and the fuller paragraphs decreasing!

b. The Major "Reformed" bodies:

(1) The Dutch reformed church

In a nutshell this is the body known today as the Reformed Church in America and it is the parent body of Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Shuler

--The origins in the colonial period are sketched on page 14 its status after the revolution on page 20

--the General Synod of 1794 saw the inclusion of many "German Reformed" and while Dutch and German were still spoken, English had been in official use since 1763.

--The amalgamation of synods brought into being the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in 1819.

--Doctrinal disputes and polity arguments brought about a division in 1857. The separating body took for itself the name Christian Reformed Church

--Its mission society was formed in 1822 and particularly looked to the frontier.(1831: Board of Domestic Missions)

--The educational institutions of the parent body in this were Rutgers College (p. 15), Hope College and Seminary (1866) and New Brunswick Seminary, among others.

--1867 the name Reformed Church in America was taken.

--The doctrinal standards include the Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechisms and Confession and the Canons of Dordt

While both the Reformed Church and the Christian Reformed Church continue, there have been a number of smaller schisms, mostly concerned with theological purity. Both bodies are strongly involved in the modern ecumenical movement. The Dutch Reformed (RCA) has its greatest strength in the coastal areas and the Christian Reformed its greatest strength in the midwest...Michigan, in particular.

(2) The German Reformed bodies:

Non remain with us by that name today although at times it may appear on an old church building, etc. The body today is part of the United Church of Christ apart from some schism and splinter groups.