

# COVENANTER MINISTERS

1930-1963

of the

**REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**OF NORTH AMERICA**

This volume is a successor to Thompson's *Sketches of the Ministers*, published in 1930. It contains supplemental sketches of ministers who were living in 1930 and of those who were called into service later. Some of these have entered into rest, while others have either retired or continue their ministry. The appendix includes a short list of those who left the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The latter pages are composed of accounts of institutions and projects of the church and include lists of missionaries who served in the period from 1930-1963. Pictures of moderators and of our institutions are given. For historical reference there are contained herein lists of Presbyteries and of Congregations, with dates of organization and disorganization during this same period.

By

THE REV. ALVIN W. SMITH, D. D.  
Pastor of Union Congregation  
Mars, Pa.

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his pastorate there on August 17, 1935. From that time on, he served as stated supply in a number of our smaller congregations, and during the last few years of his life took active part in the work of the Southfield, Michigan congregation. He died suddenly while engaged in war work, October 6, 1944. In all his places of service he is remembered as a devout pastor, a man of strong convictions and undivided loyalty to his church.

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### ISAIAH FARIS

When Thompson's book **Sketches of the Ministers** was published in 1930, it contained the record of the early life and varied ministry of Isaiah Faris. The reader will do himself a favor to review this account. Mr. Faris was living in Topeka in 1930, and was then one of the oldest ministers in the church and had been ordained 59 years before. Until two years previously he had not missed a single meeting of synod.

Mr. Faris manifested the family gift of humor as shown when he respectfully referred to The Psalms as "The condensed milk of the Word." His resourcefulness was demonstrated the time he was asked to preach on a sea voyage. The content of his sermon was composed of the answers in the Shorter Catechism from the opening words: "Man's chief end is to glorify God" . . . to the final Amen. Interested listeners inquired of the speaker the source of such a wonderful message.

He was a man of prayer with a quiet helpful attitude that extended far beyond just every day contacts. The night in 1927, when Charles Lindberg flew the Atlantic in his famous airplane "The Spirit of St. Louis," Mr. Faris followed him in prayer, especially asking God to keep The Lone Eagle awake.

The pastor of the Topeka congregation at that time, Dr. D. R. Taggart, spoke of the help Mr. Faris was in the many talks they had together. He had the faculty of making worthwhile suggestions to a young pastor without irritation. (The compiler of these accounts will always be thankful for Mr. Faris' counsel: "The Psalms should explained to be sung.") His contributions in the Sabbath School and prayer-meeting and other functions of the church were constructive.

In a sermon preached to the Topeka congregation from Deuteronomy 8:2 from the words, "to humble thee and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no." Mr. Faris spoke out of the experiences of his own life. He knew why God had dealt with him as He did and accepted the trials and perplexities he went through with contentment. He was a man of God. His life ended April 9, 1930.

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### **PAUL EUGENE FARIS**

**Paul E. Faris**, the son of Henry and Alice McCrory Faris, was born at Mayetta, Kansas on June 27, 1916. He attended the Fairview Country School and Denison High School. He was graduated from Geneva College in 1942 with an A. B. degree. He united with the Reformed Presbyterian Church on April 16, 1929.

Theological training in our seminary covered the years 1942-45. He was licensed to preach the gospel by Kansas Presbytery on May 18, 1944, and was ordained and installed pastor of the Quinter congregation on May 24, 1945, by Kansas Presbytery. He was released from this pastorate on May 21, 1957, and was installed pastor of the Sterling, Kansas congregation on June 20, 1957, and continues in this capacity until the present.

He has served on the Committee on Evangelism since