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Notes on the Meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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26 May 1857

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and also served as clerk, among the many pastoral concerns was a woman who is subject to seizures. Since this disturbs the women, consistory decided that she is to be seated with the men. Extinguishing fires in wooden fences and barrel staves on Sunday was approved even though some members may consider that a sin.

In Dutch; translated by Rev. William and Althea Buursma, 2000.

Original in the records of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland.

Meeting Held on May 26, 1857

Present were Elders Keppel, Labots, Wilterdink, Apeldoorn, Hekhuis, and Broek; Deacons te Roller, de Vries; as well as Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte. The minutes were read by Rev. van Raalte and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – The committee assigned to visit Tuburgen reported that they had received complaints from him against the alleged unorthodoxy of the minister, including misuse of the Forms and unorthodox observance of the Lord's Supper, as well as unorthodoxy among the students. The committee reported that they have rebuked and admonished him. They are of the opinion that he cannot be restored and are pessimistic concerning his return.

ARTICLE 3 – Auke de Jong and Sake S. Boonstra request baptism of their children. They are asked to receive doctrinal instruction from the pastor, a request which they accept.

ARTICLE 4 – The sum of \$30.00 was collected for Widow Kleijs. The committee or the deacons was appointed to present this to her. The committee reports her dreadful rebellion and bitterness vis-à-vis the work of the committee.

ARTICLE 5 – Widow van der Velde, who frequently suffers from seizures while in the church, greatly disturbs the pregnant and weaker women, and the janitor is assigned to seat her in the midst of the men.

ARTICLE 6 – The question is asked whether extinguishing fires in wooden fences and barrel staves is permitted on Sundays. The unanimous response is approval. If, however, someone considers this to be sinful, then for him it is sin.

ARTICLE 7 – The meeting was ended with prayer and thanksgiving by Elder Wilterdink.

A. C. van Raalte