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### Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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William Buursma

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14 December 1860

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, two members of the congregation requested that worship services be conducted by elders of the church in the neighborhood of the elders due to the long distance that some members lived from the church. This request was approved. There would be a meeting of the school committee on 17 December. "It was decided to take a collection for the oppressed and persecuted Christians in Syria." A committee was appointed to inquire of two consistory members who have been absent from consistory meetings repeatedly. It was brought to the attention of the pastor that a child had been baptized whose parents were not confessing members of the church. Rev. Van Raalte was unaware of this. He agreed to visit these members although he felt that children of non-confessing members should be baptized. Members were to be visited who have not been coming to worship including B. Ploeg.

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

Original in the records of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, vol. II, pp. 151-153.

and to encourage the administration of the school. The committee consists of Schelleman, Plugger, Binnekant, and H. J. Hesselink.

ARTICLE 6 – Mr. N. Vijn requested the floor and indicated that no one had presented a pledge list to him for the school. He pledges \$25.00 annually.

ARTICLE 7 – Brother van de Luyster proposed that a fence be placed around the church grounds. Approved. The committee consists of G. and J. van Putten, A. Plugger, N. Vijn, and T. Keppel. They were mandated to collect the necessary funds in order to complete this needed work.

No more matters remaining for the agenda, it was proposed to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer by the president and the singing of Psalm 134: 3.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of December 14, 1860

Absent: Brothers Broek and J. van de Luyster.  
Present was the newly elected deacon, P. Naber.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 2 – Present at the meeting were J. Oonk and wife. At the last celebration of the Lord's Supper, they were both present and they now declare that they now wish to be received into the fellowship of the congregation. After the normal questioning concerning their faith, the assembly judged by a majority vote that the wife Gezina Wilhelmina Oonk, nee Verbeek, can be admitted, but that the husband was rejected, in order to give him opportunity to openly show his faith in public for some time to come.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes of the previous consistory and congregational meetings were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – Two brothers of the congregation, de Wit and Oonk, requested that, because of the distance from the church, worship services be conducted in their neighborhoods by one of the elders, who will be able to lead and give them communal divine instruction. It was decided to acquiesce in this request, and that Brothers Kamper and Wilterdink, with the addition of deacons Vork and Naber, and former elder Appeldoorn, will take themselves this assignment. Brother Naber expresses his objection.

ARTICLE 5 – The newly elected deacon, P. Naber, was asked by the president if he was ready to accept the calling extended to him. He gives an affirmative answer to this, although he did indicate that he feels incompetent to the task.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to purchase good religious books for the school of our congregation, subject to the approval of the school committee. 50 copies of three volumes will be purchased at the most reasonable rate possible for both classes.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to call for a school meeting on Monday, December 17, at 7 P.M. Brothers Kamper and Keppel accept the assignment to inform the committees of this decision.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided to take a collection for the oppressed and persecuted Christians in Syria.

ARTICLE 9 – Because Buitenhuis and wife require another home, a cause for which some monies and materials have been collected, it was decided that the house will be erected on the lot currently occupied by the orphanage. The building will remain the property of the congregation.

ARTICLE 10 – Brother Keppel reports having spoken with P. van den Berg concerning the will of the late Jenneken ter Vree. Not a large sum is to be expected, and, with the assistance of the pastor, an effort will be made to obtain a more favorable statement of ownership from the legacy and the already offered note of J. H. Veeneklaasen. It was decided that because no other way remains, a statement will be made concerning the above-mentioned note, at \$54.50, with interest at 5% from May 1, 1857. Brother te Roller volunteers to arrange for the exchange of this note. The clerk was mandated to sign this statement and to also to have it signed by the heirs.

ARTICLE 11 – Because of the repeated absence of Brothers Broek and van de Luyster, a committee of Wakker and Kamper was appointed to admonish these brothers.

ARTICLE 12 – Brothers Labots and Wakker informed the assembly that they are living in a somewhat relationship with some members of the congregation, because of the baptism of the child of J. de Jong. Neither he nor his wife have made profession of faith. The president indicates that he had erroneously assumed that they had already made profession of faith. A misunderstanding is involved, according to the Rev., and he is willing to submit himself to the judgment of the consistory, although it is his

conviction that such offspring of children, even though they have not yet made profession of faith, should be baptized. The president was requested to visit these members and to inform them of his misunderstanding of the situation, encouraging them to make profession of their faith.

ARTICLE 13 – Since some of the members of the congregation have for some time withdrawn from the public worship of the church, and, because others, including the former elder Ploeg, have made themselves guilty of various sins and are now meeting separately for worship, it was asked whether or not these individuals should be dealt with according to ecclesiastical discipline rules. If not, should they be looked upon as no longer members of the congregation, since they have, in fact, placed themselves outside of the church?

It was decided to appoint a committee to visit these members, with the mandate to report at the next consistory meeting. The committee consists of Keppel, Labots, and Wakker.

The meeting was closed by Brother Kamper.

G. Wakker

Consistory Meeting of January 18, 1861

All were present.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by the president, Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 2 – Present were Pietje van der Stel, Cornelia Steketee, Jaantje Dijkema, Agata Pieternella Schelleman, Adriana van der Tak, Gezine Streng, Helena Frederika Pfanstiehl, and Garda Perendina Pfanstiehl; all of whom desire to be admitted to the table of the Lord. After questioning, all of them were admitted, by a majority vote, with the exception of Garda Perendina Pfanstiehl, who, because of her lack of knowledge concerning the divine truths, could not be admitted. She was, however, admonished to faithfully attend the catechism classes, and, in addition, the pastor offered to give her private instruction on a weekly basis, if she so desires.