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

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4 June 1858

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the new elder, Gerrit Wakker, made a remark that the same person should not be both president and clerk. By a unanimous vote, Wakker was elected the clerk! It was learned that a member of the church remarried without being divorced from his first wife. The consistory moved to bring this issue to the classis. Labots and Keppel are still trying to get a couple to be reconciled. Although there are times when the pastor was absent, students were not allowed to fill the pulpit.

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 58-59.

Meeting Held on May 20, 1858

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – Elders Labots and Broek were delegated to make inquiries in connection with the marriage of Widow Kleijs.

ARTICLE 3 – J. Witte will be asked to justify before the next meeting questions concerning his marriage.

ARTICLE 4 – The request of Broek's district for Sunday catechism classes in the school is postponed until Elder Broek can be present.

ARTICLE 5 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Elder Wilterdink.

A. C. van Raalte

Consistory Meeting Held on June 4, 1858

✓ Present: All members of the consistory.

The president, Rev. A. C. van Raalte opened the meeting with prayer. As a result of a remark made by Mr. Wakker that the president and clerk should not be one person, by motion of the president and an unanimous vote of the assembly, Mr. Wakker was assigned the task of being clerk.

ARTICLE 1 – Mr. J. Witte appeared at the meeting, in harmony with an invitation (see Article 3 of February 8 minutes).

ARTICLE 2 – Mr. M. van Duine and wife and (?) Kroon entered the meeting requesting to be received as members. After the usual inquiry, the majority of the consistory voted not to permit the two first-named to become members; the husband, because of a worldly attitude, and the wife because of her ignorance (of spiritual matters). Kroon was accepted as a member with the admonishment of continuing to attend catechism classes.

ARTICLE 3 – After having discussed with J. Witte the fact that he has married without having first been lawfully divorced from his wife, it was decided by the consistory to bring this difficult question to the next session of classis.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee mentioned in Article 11 of the meeting of May 20 reports concerning the marriage of Widow Kleijs. The consistory judges that for the time being there is nothing they are able to do in this matter.

ARTICLE 5 – At the request of Mr. Nagelkerke, presented by Brother Labots, a motion was approved that Labots and Keppel, accompanied by the pastor, will this evening attempt to determine if this separated couple can be brought back together.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that Brother Broek will continue to take the catechism classes in his district.

ARTICLE 7 – Brother Wilterdink requests relief from providing a home for R. de Vries, a task which up to this time he has taken upon himself. This request was granted, and the brethren will look for another place (for de Vries).

ARTICLE 8 – Brother Labots requests support in the task of leading the worship services for the congregation whenever the pastor is ill or absent. It was decided that the elders are, as much as possible, to do all in their power to assist. At this time there is some agitation concerning the permission given for preaching by students still attending the school. It was decided to adhere to the decision of synod and not permit preaching by students. The meeting was closed by Brother Ploeg.

G. Wakker

Meeting Held on June 17, 1858

Absent were Brothers Hekhuis, te Røller, and Plugger.

The meeting was opened by the president.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes of the two previous meetings were read; the first was approved; the latter, in Article 4, incorrectly states that the members mentioned were separated from one another. Actually they are still living together.

ARTICLE 2 – In Article 3, it is judged that the matter should have been more clearly expressed to indicate that J. Witte knowingly had entered his present marriage without having waited for the