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Meeting Notes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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17 June 1858

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and at which Elder Gerrit Wakker served as clerk, many items were discussed. There is evidence that Elder Broek is not on good terms with consistory.

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. 59-61.

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 Roller, 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

civil regulation requiring a certain time before remarriage. In spite of this, he had answered the question if he was a single man in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Broek was asked why he was not present at the meeting of May 20. His answer was that he should have been asked at the previous meeting to be present.

ARTICLE 4 – A discussion followed the request of a certain Nijland to be admitted to the table of the Lord, although his membership statement from Kalamazoo had not yet been received. It was decided that this request could not be denied, but that we should normally follow the usual rules.

ARTICLE 5 - The committee (see Article 4, June 4, 1858) reports and declares that the current controversy in that marriage originally was the fault of the wife rather than the husband. By cunning evasion of lawful legal arrangements for their property, she bequeathed them to her children.

ARTICLE 6 – Brother Broek declares that he will not submit himself to the decision noted in Article 6 of the June 4 meeting. As a result, the elders will take turns in the summer months to teach the catechism classes mentioned.

ARTICLE 7 – A discussion followed concerning certain censured members, and it was decided that the pastor and Labots, Keppel, and Plugger will function as a committee to visit J. Vinke.

ARTICLE 8 – There was a discussion about Brother Wilterdink, and, because of his mental problems, it was decided to discuss some of the particulars with him. The pastor and Labots take upon themselves this task.

ARTICLE 9 – A question was raised by Brother Wakker concerning an expression used by the pastor about the sacraments, namely, whether the Lord's Supper can also be viewed as a vehicle for regeneration. The pastor replied in the negative, and, at the same time, he admonished that one should not pay so much attention to an expression but rather to the essence of the matter.

ARTICLE 10 – Brother Keppel was asked, in connection with a previously appointed committee assignment, whether the

administrative books concerning the church building fund had been found to be in good order. He replied in the affirmative, mentioning the many complicated factors that had been considered by him. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Ploeg.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker

Meeting Held on June 26, 1858

Absent: Broek, Keppel, Plugger, and Wilterdink
The meeting was opened by the president.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes were approved.

ARTICLE 2 – The president asks Brother Hekhuis why he was absent at the previous meeting. He indicates that he had been hindered due to illness. The same question was put to Brother te Roller, who declared that at that time he was in Grand Rapids.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee (see Article 8, 17th of June) reports that they have not yet spoken to Elder Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 4 – Brother Keppel enters the meeting. The committee appointed to see J. Vinke (see Article 7 of the May 17 meeting), with the exception of Brother Plugger, whose place was taken by Wakker, since Plugger had suddenly been unavailable, brings its report. They have spoken at length and earnestly with him, and believe it is necessary to maintain the current status of censure. Vinke has, however, recently said that he now believes that the consistory has dealt with him in love and for the well being of his soul.

ARTICLE 6 (sic) – A discussion ensued concerning the wife of Nijsing in reference to the baptism of her child. Her husband desires to have the child baptized by the secessionists, since he belongs to this group. The assembly judges that no woman should be forced to go against her conscience and that the woman should be comforted at every opportunity given us.

ARTICLE 7 – It was proposed and approved to read a catechism sermon Sunday afternoon in the district school No. 4.