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Meeting Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of the First Reformed Church

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15 March 1860

Holland, Michigan

The congregational meeting of the First Reformed Church was opened with the singing of the Psalm 25.2, followed a prayer that was offered by the pastor, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. The elders elected were Broek, Hekhuis, Kamper, and Wilderdink. Vork, Rensing, J. van de Luyster and Geerlings were elected deacons. Second ballots were necessary for both elders and deacons since 2/3 of the votes were necessary for election. The singing of Psalm 119.3 concluded the meeting.

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, 128-129.

Congregational Meeting of March 15, 1860

The meeting was opened with the singing of Psalm 25: 2, and prayer by the Rev. van Raalte, as president.

ARTICLE 1 – The president made a short speech concerning the purpose of this meeting, which is to elect one-half of the consistory to replace the retiring brothers, Apeldoorn, Hekhuis, Broek, and Ploeg, the last of whom had already expressed his desire to function only as elder emeritus. The retiring deacons are Wilterdink and Plugger.

ARTICLE 2 – The president now requests the assembly to vote by ballot. Brother Ploeg requests the floor and reads a communication, indicating that he disagrees with the current decision to retire one-half of the consistory. He makes a few other comments, which are not appropriate for the meeting, and consequently they could not be considered.

ARTICLE 3 – The results of the election reveal that Broek received 50 votes for elder; Apeldoorn 25; Hekhuis 35; Kamper 27. For deacons, Wilterdink received 15; Plugger 12; Jonker 14; Schrader 10; Polsma 7; Schelleman 6; J. van der Slyster 11; as well as Brother Broek who received 2/3rds of the votes and was reelected as elder.

ARTICLE 4 – A second ballot provided no one with a 2/3rds majority, so those who had received the six highest votes were made a slate, from which three were to be chosen. Elected were Hekhuis and Kamper. Another ballot was required between Apeldoorn and deacon Wilterdink. Deacon Wilterdink was chosen as elder.

ARTICLE 5 – It was proposed by the president that two additional elders should be chosen. This proposal was rejected by the majority.

ARTICLE 6 – It was proposed to increase the number of deacons by two. This was accepted, and consequently four deacons needed to be chosen.

ARTICLE 7 – The counting of the ballots revealed that no one had attained the necessary majority, and, therefore, the nine persons with the most votes were presented as a slate; four to be elected as deacons. Plugger attained 36 votes Schelleman (no votes listed);

Polsma 19; van de Luyster 17; Rensing 14; Schrader 13; Geerlings 12; Meengs 11; Vork 9. Brother Plugger declared that he would not accept any office and desired that no one should vote for him.

ARTICLE 8 – In the next ballot the brethren Vork and Rensing were chosen as deacons. A re-vote between Polsma, van de Luyster, Schellema, and Geerlings resulted in the election of Brother J. van de Luyster and Brother Geerlings.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the president, and the singing of Psalm 119: 3.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of March 23, 1860

Absent due to illness – Brother Hekhuis.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Present at the meeting were the newly elected brothers – Deacons J. van de Luyster, Jacob Vork, Gerrit Jan Rensing, and Arend Geerlings. All of them declared that, in spite of some concerns, they are willing to accept the office of deacons. Geerlings requested that no administrative position be assigned to him. This could not be accepted. Brother Deacon Wilterdink, who has been chosen as elder, declared that he felt unqualified for the task, but that he would accept the calling. The other newly elected Kamper was not present.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes were read and approved, although the president indicated that he will have some written comments about them at the following meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes of the congregational meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 5 – A written testimonial from the consistory of the congregation of Zeeland was received and accepted on behalf of M. Feijter.

ARTICLE 6 – A membership statement was given to Pieter Hendrik Vermeer and Margereta Geerdina Vermeer, nee van Steenen.

ARTICLE 7 – A report from the committee dealing with the legacy of the late Widow de Vreede was given.