

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

3-23-1860

Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

A. C. Van Raalte

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s

The original documents are held in The Joint Archives of Holland. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from [The Joint Archives of Holland](#).

Recommended Citation

Van Raalte, A. C.; Wakker, G.; Buursma, William; and Buursma, Althea, "Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1860). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 55.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/55

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

23 March 1860

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, the newly elected deacons were present, namely, J. van de Luyster, Jacob Vork, Gerrit Jan Rensing, and Arend Geerlings. (Their first names were not in the minutes of the congregational meeting at which they were elected on 15 March.) All were willing to accept their offices. However, Geerlings preferred that no administrative duties be assigned him. In dealing with the legacy of the Widow [Jenneken] Vreede (spelled differently than in the minutes of 9 March meeting where she was called ter Vree) it was noted that the gentlemen who held the note that would be called in was not able to pay the note. Rev. Van Raalte declared that his share could go to the congregation when it came in. More discussion was held about the "flask" case of the Schaddelees. Widow van der Velde was back and as a member of the church needed assistance and was under the care of the congregation.

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. 129-130.

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.

Due to the fact that the note for Veeneklaasen can only be paid with great difficulty, this matter was assigned to Brother Plugger to negotiate with P. van den Berg, seeking a cheaper agreement. Rev. van Raalte states that he will give \$20.00 to the congregation, which may encourage further impetus to the matter.

ARTICLE 8 – The committee, in the matter of Schaddelee reports that they have been unable to make any progress, and that she denies all guilt and considers herself to be completely in the right. She continues to believe P. van der Tak, who has publicly been revealed as a liar. She still questions the matter concerning the missing flask and continues to accuse Jaantje van der Tak of other shortcomings, based on the words of P. van der Tak. The committee also reports that they were treated in an odious fashion, expressing itself in mockery and disdain. The committee is of the opinion that there is nothing more they can do with these people, but that she had indicated that the minister should come, because she still has respect for him.

The question was raised concerning the relationship of these members to the congregation, since previously they had requested their membership papers, and they had always been a family giving much offense, and now, once again, were expressing their disdain for the church and for the admonition of the consistory by apparently willingly believing in lies. It was decided to visit them at the earliest opportunity. The committee consists of Rev. van Raalte and Wakker. They were given authority to act.

ARTICLE 9 - The deacons asks what to do with Widow van der Velde, who has returned to the congregation. It was judged that since she is a member of the church, the congregation is responsible for her care.

ARTICLE 10 – The delegates to the upcoming classical meeting were appointed. Keppel and Wakker were appointed as primary delegates, and Broek, as alternate for Keppel, and Labots, as alternate for Wakker.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Labots.

A. C. van Raalte
G, Wakker, clerk