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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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30 March 1860

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, the issue of the parochial school again surfaced. The congregation was having a difficult time in maintaining the school but the consistory "decided to attempt all possible means to maintain the school, and to return to the matter at a future time."

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, p. 131.

Consistory Meeting of March 30, 1860

All were present, except for Hekhuis and Plugger.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Kamper, also present, informed the gathering that his wife had brought up certain objections concerning his acception of his nomination as elder. After some fraternal advice was given, it was decided to appoint a committee consisting of the pastor, Keppel, and Wilterdink to visit Mrs. Kamper.

ARTICLE 3 – In connection with Article 3 of the minutes of March 23, it was decided, by a majority vote, that Article 4 of the February 24 meeting, and Article 2 of the March 9 meeting would be erased.

ARTICLE 4 – A discussion ensued concerning the parochial school, because the current teacher is very likely about to leave. The discussion included ways to make the instruction more purposeful. In general, the assembly felt that there is a great need for this school, since it revolves around the most tender concerns of our children. At the same time, it was acknowledged that it is difficult to advance this cause among our people. It was decided to attempt all possible means, in order to maintain the school, and to return to the matter at a future time.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Wakker informs the meeting that Deacon Rensing, who had been chosen at the congregational meeting, had told him that he wanted to inform the consistory that he is declining this call. He bases this on the multifaceted difficulties in the way this procedure was conducted, making it impossible for him to look upon this as a call from God. He added, however, that if later it should become clear to him, he would accept the choice. It was decided that the same committee appointed for Brother Kamper visit him, and if he makes that kind of a declaration, to leave the matter to his conscience.

ARTICLE 6 – The meeting was closed by Wakker.

G. Wakker, clerk