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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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15 June 1860

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, it was reported that Miss Zwaluwenberg would stay at the parochial school as long as she was needed. Mr. [Roelof?] Pieters indicated that they had no criticism how the hiring of the new teacher was done. (I believe that Pieters and Zwaluwenberg were later married and were the parents of Albertus Pieters. Consult one of his articles about his mother.) The pastor reported on the request of the Ledeboer family to unite with the congregation. They were accepted as members but the clerk, Gerrit Wakker, for reasons of conscience would not vote affirmatively. His opposition held up the request for the time being until the matter could be checked by a committee and then empowered to act. Cor and Aleda Voorst resigned from the congregation. A committee of eight to ten members, half of whom were from the consistory and the other half from the congregation were appointed as a school committee. The members of the committee were Van Raalte, Keppel, Wakker, van de Luyster, and Geerlings of the consistory, and C. Doesburg, H. J. Hesselink, Plugger, Polsma, and Rev. Giles van der Wall from 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. 140-141.

according to a classical decision, she will be given a testimonial concerning her conduct while here.

ARTICLE 7 – The president presents a letter and a response from Miss van de Linde concerning her appointment as instructor in the school of our congregation. Brothers Keppel and te Roller were appointed as a committee to visit her and to work out details of the contract, with the most economical and beneficial arrangements for the school.

ARTICLE 4 – It was decided, for the advancement of this school, to appoint a school committee consisting of from eight to ten members, one-half from the consistory, and the others from the congregation. The appointed members of the consistory are A. C. van Raalte, Keppel, Wakker, van de Luyster, and Geerlings. From the congregation C. Doesburg, H. J. Hesselink, Plugger, and Polsma were appointed. The Rev. G. van der Wall was added to the committee. The clerk was instructed to give written notification to these individuals of their appointment and to consult with them for the time of their first meeting.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to distribute the funds collected, because of the fire at J. Vinke, etc., on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock.

The meeting was closed by Brother Labots.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of July 6, 1860

Absent: Brothers Broek and van de Luyster.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes were read and approved, with the exception that one of the members of the committee for the school was not Polsma, but Binnenkant.

ARTICLE 2 – The committee appointed concerning Dr. Ledeboer reports orally by the clerk that the objections have been resolved and consequently the protest has been withdrawn.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee appointed to examine members who wish to be admitted to the Lord's Supper reports that the following have been admitted: Geert de Wit and Maria de Wit, nee Meijer; Johannes van Dijk and Anje van Dijk, nee Oostma; Johannes Naber and Anna Naber, nee de Vries.

Consistory Meeting of June 15, 1860

All the members were present, except Brother Hekhuis, who is ill and can no longer attend our meetings.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the president.

ARTICLE 1 – Present was Hendrik Jan te Slechte, who requested to be admitted to the fellowship of the church.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee appointed to meet with Miss Zwaluwenberg reports. She had indicated that she has no criticism of the way the consistory has handled the matter of hiring another teacher. Mr. Pieters agreed with this evaluation. She indicated that she was ready to serve the school as long as circumstances permitted. The meeting with her indicates that this matter is being settled harmoniously.

ARTICLE 4 – The Rev. van Raalte reports in the case of Dr. Ledeboer. He has spoken with Rev. Phelps and received information concerning how our church deals with accepting memberships from another denomination. Frequently the matter is dealt with depending upon circumstances. It was decided that Dr. Ledeboer and his family, because previously they belonged to our denomination and left it temporarily in Grand Rapids, joining the Congregationalists, because there was no congregation of our own conducting services in their language, will be received as members. The clerk declares that he is privy to information which he cannot and may not mention, but requests from the brethren freedom to exercise his conscience with no further questions, as he registers his protest against receiving Dr. Ledeboer. The clerk wishes the completion of this matter to be postponed until he has complete and certain clarification of the objections after a personal meeting with Dr. Ledeboer. This was unanimously approved. The president and the clerk were appointed as a committee to deal with the matter, with power to act.

ARTICLE 5 – A letter of resignation from our church fellowship was received from Cor Vorst and Aleda Vorst, nee van Adel. This was received for information.

ARTICLE 6 – Frederika Berendina Smits requested transfer of membership to Grand Haven. It was decided that, since she has already been away from here for three years,