

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859

Van Raalte Papers

1-21-1859

Meeting Notes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

A. C. Van Raalte

Gerrit Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s

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, Gerrit; Buursma, William; and Buursma, Althea, "Meeting Notes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1859). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 84. https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s/84

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: 1850-1859 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

21 January 1859

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and Gerrit Wakker served as clerk, a couple asked for baptism for their child although they were not members of the church. "The members of the assembly express differing points of view and are not able, as is the practice of neighboring ministers, to accommodate themselves to the wishes of individuals." The father was admonished to "investigate the divine truths," be admitted as a member and then have the child baptized. A Mr. G. van Putten asked to have half of the amount he was owed for the building of the church to be paid him.

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. 87-89.

that the matter would have bitter consequences attempted to find a middle way, which would not irritate either party. This effort was hindered because Brother Keppel was so sure of the righteousness of his cause that under no circumstances would he make a settlement involving money to be given to Mulder, but demanded damages, because so much of his time and effort had been occupied with this. He had no regrets about the purchase, and anything related to it, since the sale never became a reality.

The consistory, although convinced that his complaint had merit, nevertheless, attempted to persuade him to suffer loss rather than to allow this agitated atmosphere to continue. In spite of this plea, Brother Keppel refused to listen to this advice but insisted upon receiving justice. At this point, further discussion was broken off. The president warned Veeneklaasen, before his departure, that he should cool his anger before he destroyed himself, and that since he was already an old man, he ought to be an example. He added that the wrathful rage would surely have a negative influence upon his children, and all who knew him. This warning was not received in a friendly fashion, based on a comment made by (Veeneklaasen).

The meeting was closed with a decision to meet again on Friday evening at 6 o'clock

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker

Consistory Meeting of January 21, 1859

Except for Brother Ploeg, who was hindered because of bad weather, all of the members were present.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by the president. The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Mr. Veeneklaasen enters the meeting and requests the baptism of his child, even though neither he nor his wife are members. The members of the assembly express differing points of view and are not able, as is the practice of neighboring ministers, to accommodate themselves to the wishes of individuals. They decide to inquire of the father the reason for his desire and his knowledge concerning religion, in particular

his knowledge of the sacraments, including holy baptism. The president asked him earnest questions, and his answers give evidence that in our opinion he is lacking the most essential knowledge, although there is some evidence of a desire to know the things he is ignorant of.

The consistory was forced to admonish him, to prayerfully investigate the divine truths, and help was offered to him, with the view that later the consistory could, in all freedom, admit him and administer baptism to his child. He would then be able to answer the questions required in our formula for baptism.

ARTICLE 3 – Benjamin Ploeg was present in order to request admission to the Lord's table by way of profession. After the president and some of the members of the consistory had questioned him, the consistory judged that his answers were so lacking in clarity and so confused, as far as the state of his soul is concerned, that they had no freedom to admit him. He was kindly admonished and earnestly advised to delve deeply into these matters, and in the future once again to discuss his request.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee mentioned in Article 2 of the December 27 meeting reported that the I.O.U.s were approved. However, the carpenters desire a different form for the statement of indebtedness.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee appointed to see James van der Velt reports that this domestic disharmony is not yet a matter for ecclesiastical censure. This report is accepted by the assembly.

ARTICLE 6 – The president reports to the meeting that a statement of membership has been given to Lammert Hofman and Janna Hofman, nee Kooi, to Overijsel, dated January 14, 1859.

ARTICLE 7 – A letter from H. A. Brouwer from Millpoint was read. He requests a statement of membership, which, according to his letter, was denied him five years ago. The reason for this refusal no longer exists, and he now hopes to receive a statement of membership. It was decided, on the basis of his personal statement, to accede to his request.

ARTICLE 8 – A discussion ensued concerning van Dam and wife. It was decided that, although they are once again together, there will be a time of probation before censure is lifted.

ARTICLE 9 – The foster parents of the child of Boonstra request some assistance for the care of this motherless child. They ask for \$1.25 per week. It was decided that this sum is too much and for less money in our neighborhood,

the child could be cared for and nurtured. The matter was referred to the deacons.

ARTICLE 10 – G. van Putten, on behalf of the contractors, request half of the monies received for the building of the church. It was proposed to request payment of the as-yet unpaid rental on the pews, and to request others who have loaned money to lengthen the period of our credit, in an effort to satisfy van Putten. Otherwise, it will be necessary to summon the congregation to a meeting to discuss this matter.

ARTICLE 11 – The committee for carpenter work in the church reports that the work has been finished, and that the carpenters desire a statement of indebtedness. This was received for information and approved.

ARTICLE 12 – The president informs the assembly that it is his intention in about three weeks to go to Pella.

The meeting was closed with prayer by te Roller.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker

Consistory Meeting of February 15, 1859

Absent: Brothers Ploeg and Plugger, and, with notice, the Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

The meeting was opened by Brother Apeldoorn.

ARTICLE 1 – Due to the absence of the president, A. C. van Raalte, Brother Labots was chosen to preside.

ARTICLE 2 – Georg Deur and Annigje Deur, nee van den Berg, request admission to membership in the congregation. After their profession of faith was accepted, they were permitted to come to the table of the Lord.

ARTICLE 3 – Also present was Brother Kamper. He indicates that he feels accused by Brother Kroon, whom he had expected to be here. The charge was unrighteous, godless oppression, etc. After giving some further information of the situation, he asks that the consistory would require of the accuser that he must prove the charges made. The consistory judges that the accusers should have been here and decides that the accusers and the accused, with witnesses, will meet together with the consistory on Friday evening, at 6 o'clock, February 18. Brothers Hekhuis, Apeldoorn, and Wilterdink accept the assignment