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Meeting Notes on the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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22 September 1859

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, consistory voted to raised the pastor's salary to \$800 per year of which \$100 was for housing. Since it would be difficult to meet this salary, it was proposed to ask the Board of Education of the denomination for a stipend of \$200. This was not agreed to; rather the subject would be taken up at the next congregational 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, pp. 105-106.

be placed by the church as an essential requirement for the necessary cleaning. The consistory, convinced of the good intentions and interest of this society, promises to provide this essential ingredient. The expenses involved will be recovered from monies obtained for the renting of pews. At the same time, the committee was thanked for their excellent work and their ongoing concern for cleanliness.

ARTICLE 14 – The construction of an appropriate water well was assigned to the deacons.

ARTICLE 15 – Nine o'clock having arrived, it was decided to close the meeting and to meet again on Tuesday, October 2, 6:00 o'clock P.M.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Keppel.

G. Wakker

Special Consistory Meeting of September 22, 1859

Present were Brothers Keppel, Labots, Apeldoorn, Hekhuis, Wakker, Plugger, and te Roller.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Apeldoorn.

ARTICLE 2 – By a motion by Brother Wakker, Brother Ploeg was chosen to be chairman by an unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Ploeg proposes that he be excused from all assignments and that he be granted the position of elder emeritus. The assembly judges that they are not willing to acquiesce. Ploeg was not satisfied with this, and the assembly decided to return to this point at the next meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – A motion was made to increase the salary of the pastor to \$800.00 annually, with free housing. After much discussion, a decision was made, based on the general ongoing financial situation of the congregation, to increase the salary to \$700.00 and \$100.00 for housing, with a total of \$800.00. This decision passed by a majority of the votes.

ARTICLE 5 – There was a discussion about how the salary could be raised in the current difficult financial times. The majority judged that we ought to turn to the board of education

to see whether \$200.00 could be obtained from them. The remaining \$600.00 would be raised by an assessment on the congregation. A minority had grave objections to this decision, especially because the greater part of the congregation is not only well disposed but also backs this up with deeds. This is particularly true for those who live in the village. In addition, to request monies from the board will bring about quite a bit of unpleasantness. It was finally decided that at the next congregational meeting this subject will be on the agenda and, in the future, there will be a more orderly and regulated decision in this matter.

ARTICLE 6 – Brothers Labots and Keppel were appointed, on behalf of the consistory, to request the Rev. van der Wall to preach next Sunday one time, due to the absence of our pastor.

The meeting was closed by Brother Hekhuis.

B. H. Ploeg
G. Wakker

Consistory Meeting of October 14, 1859

Absent: Brothers Ploeg, Labots, and te Roller. The last two named entered the meeting later.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the president.

ARTICLE 1 – Present at the meeting were A. van der Veen and E. O. Baeler. They desire, by way of profession of faith, to be received as members of the congregation. After an examination, they were both accepted by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 2 – Membership transfers were received for Willem and Pieter Moerdijk from Kalamazoo, dated October 10, 1859; also for Koo Brand from Muskegon, dated October 1, 1859.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee, appointed to place a water well near the church, at the request of the Ladies' Society, made a report that they have assigned this task to Volmarie in the sum of \$28.50. Payment will be made at the latest in January, or, in case of need, later. Interest will be included if the payment is made later.