

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

12-22-1862

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" (1862). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 147.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/147

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.

22 December 1862

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, new members were received. Hubrecht Marselije [Marsilje] and his wife transferred in from Kalamazoo as did the G. van den Beld family. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Everese transferred in from Vriesenveen, the Netherlands. Collections for Higher Education will cease and the deacons will canvass the congregation for necessary funds instead. Elders reported on their family visitation calls. Annual rental of the pews will take place on December 31. No place would rent for less than fifty cents. The congregational meeting will take place on January 1, 1863. It was not held on Thanksgiving Day because it "was a special day of prayer as well, because of the tragic circumstances of the war [Civil War]."

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. 183a, 183b, and 184.

Consistory Meeting of November 3, 1862

Absent: Brothers Vork and, due to illness, Keppel.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided that a decision of classis to cover the expenses and existing debts by assessing each congregation 75 cents annually will be assigned to the deacons for implementation. Each deacon will contact all of the individuals in his district, and the members of the congregation will be encouraged to voluntarily contribute these monies, according to the ability and, in fairness, based on the total members of each family. This will remove any objections towards bringing up the necessary funds for the maintenance and extension of this Institution so important to us.

ARTICLE 4 – It was decided to pay more attention to family visitation. At the next consistory meeting, each of the elders will give a report concerning activities in their district.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to meet again in four weeks, unless circumstances require an earlier meeting.

The meeting was closed by Brother Kamper.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of December 22, 1862

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte, chairman.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Membership transfer received for G. van den Beld and spouse, from Kalamazoo, dated June 16, 1862, and Hubrecht Marselije and spouse, from Kalamazoo, dated September 7, 1862, and Adam Everese and spouse, coming with a testimonial from the Vriesenveen, the Netherlands, dated December 27.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided to announce to the congregation next Sunday that the collections for Higher Education will cease, and from now on the necessary funds will be collected by the deacons (in their districts).

ARTICLE 4 – Because of his needs, it was decided to provide for clothing for B. ten Brink.

ARTICLE 5 – Wakker reports concerning a conversation he had with H. Slag, who had previously stated to the pastor that he was prepared to come with his children for baptism, but, because of an expression found there,

he seems to have been hindered. Now he no longer is inclined to submit, namely, that he had desired before bringing his children for baptism that the congregation should be publicly informed that his current difficulties with censure had been mutually resolved. The consistory decided that this desire can be agreed upon in this case. The pastor was once more requested to visit this family to encourage the baptisms and to satisfy these members.

ARTICLE 6 – Brother Labots indicates that at family visiting difficulties were apparent between the families of Smits and van Rij and the widow van Rij. It was judged that it is best to continue to labor with these families in an effort to satisfy them.

Brothers Broek and Wilterdink had the opposite experience in family visiting, and had been receiving evidences of peace and cheerfulness.

ARTICLE 7 – A report indicated that the widow Klijn is in need, concerning necessary clothing so that at least one of her children can attend school. The mother also needs firewood. It was decided to provide these necessities, but to encourage the married children to give evidences of assisting their mother and family.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided that on December 31, there will be the annual rental of pew, and there was a discussion about complaints of certain members against the concept of rented pews.

At the same time, it was decided not to rent any places for less than 50 cents. This will make room for more free places.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided to have a congregational meeting on January 1, 1863, made necessary, because on Thanksgiving there had been no meeting, since that was a special day of prayer as well, because of the tragic circumstances of the war (Civil War).

ARTICLE 10 – All of the members of the consistory were invited to review the books of the church. A committee, consisting of Labots, Keppel, Wakker, Oonk, and Kamper, will be at the home of Brother Plugger in the evening of January 1.

ARTICLE 11 – The next consistory meeting was set for January (?).

The meeting was closed by Brother Labots.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk