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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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G. Wakker

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1 January 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, the financial statement for the year 1862 was read. The total amount received was \$1,016.17. It was also reported that \$595 was collected for the pastor's salary but there was still a shortage in the account in the amount of \$205. Aldert Plugger was chosen as temporary chairman while the pastor's salary was being discussed. The pastor then challenged the congregation to take on the support of one missionary. Election of elders and deacons took place also.

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. 185-187.

Congregational Meeting of January 1, 1863

ARTICLE 1 – After the singing of Psalm 68: 10, the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 2 – The financial situation of the congregation for the year 1862 was read to the assembly, as follows:

Regular Sunday collections -	\$663.60	
For missions and similar offerings -	96.49	
Special designated gifts for foreign needs -	20.00	
Special collections designated for domestic needs -	15.00	= \$131.49
For the Board of Education and instruction -	63.37	
For publications and printing -	7.00	
For the Schenectady congregation -	13.41	
For the Holland Academy up to October 16 -	137.30	
Total -	\$1,016.17	

In addition, see note concerning Holland Academy - \$160.00

ARTICLE 3 – The receipts and disbursements of the benevolence fund show a balance of \$49.00. The church fund has been adequate to cover all of the ongoing expenses, plus minus \$86.50, which were incurred because of the discontinued school of the congregation. Payments have been made since October 11, 1862, but the accounting was not yet complete, because the committee was scheduled to meet on Friday, January 2 for this purpose. The sum of \$330.00 debt to the Schenk funds is not included in the above tabulation.

ARTICLE 4 – A question was asked concerning the salary of the pastor. Brother Labots informs the assembly that this year only the sum of \$595.00 has been received and paid. A shortage exists of \$205.00.

In the previous year, there was a shortage still remaining of \$86.00.

After considerable discussion about this, Mr. Plugger was chosen as temporary chairman for the discussion of this subject. It was decided that the shortage for 1860 and for 1861 will be made up through the church funds received for pew rentals as quickly as possible. Individuals who still owe are not relieved of their obligations, and an investigation will take place, seeking the reason for this lack of payment. If possible, these monies loaned from the church fund will be returned.

As far as the shortage for 1862 is concerned, it was judged that we cannot resolve this matter, since the payments for the last quarter have not yet been received.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that the previously requested assessment for the salary of the pastor will remain in status quo.

ARTICLE 6 – Rev. A. C. van Raalte, having once again taken over the chairmanship, calls to the attention of the congregation its calling to help spread the gospel with power. If all do so, it will be possible to support at least one missionary. He calls for the necessary means to achieve this, and asks that at the next classical meeting the example set here will encourage the classis to embrace this cause unanimously.

ARTICLE 7 – It was proposed and accepted that, in order to achieve the above-mentioned goal, committees be appointed to test the matter by a petition drive. Some individuals offered to pay part of the necessary cost. One offered \$10.00 and another \$100.00 for the necessary expenses. In the meantime, consideration was given to appointing these committees.

ARTICLE 8 – The committees consist of Kamper, Hesselink, and ten Pas; B, ten Brink and G. Kroon; Bloemers, Sr. and Veeneklaasen. A special committee, consisting of people from the village of Holland, will also be formed.

Because it was getting late, and some had already left the assembly, it was decided to go to the agenda for electing the half of the consistory members whose terms conclude this year.

T. Keppel, elder
J. Labots, elder
G. Wakker, elder

D. te Roller, deacon
P. de Vries, deacon
P. Naber, deacon

ARTICLE 9 – Balloting indicated that the three retiring elders have all been reelected by an unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 10 – The assembly now moved to balloting for the deacons. Deacon P. de Vries informed the assembly that one should not vote for him, because if it happened that he was chosen, he was no longer willing to serve. He added that he has conscientious objections and that he wants to rest.

The results of the balloting indicate that there were 19 votes for P. de Vries, 44 for D. te Roller, and 45 for P. Naber. Consequently, the last two mentioned were reelected. At this point, Brother de Vries declared that he was no longer willing to serve as a deacon.

Although various individuals received votes, it was decided to ballot from the three who had received the most votes. They were R. Schelleman, 6 votes; Kieft, 3; and ten Brink, 3. Counting of the ballots revealed that Schelleman had 16; Kieft, 13; and B.

ten Brink had 10 votes. Because no one had received the required majority, a new vote took place. A count of the ballots revealed that Schelleman had received 21 votes; Kieft 15 and B. ten Brink 8.

ARTICLE 11 – Since Schelleman had not received a majority of the votes, the question was asked whether the balloting could be concluded. Several responded negatively, and because there was no unanimous acceptance of the suggestion, and, because so many members were not present, the decision was made to discontinue the process.

ARTICLE 12 – It was decided to close the meeting. It was ended with prayer by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

N.B. In the financial report of the congregation, concerning receipts for the Holland Academy, the sum of \$137.30 was reported. This amount is only for one-half of the school year. In the previous half year, \$160.00 was contributed, and the total, therefore, should have been \$297.30.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of January 19, 1863

Absent: D. te Roller and Plugger.

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

ARTICLE 1 – Present at the meeting were Johannes Vork and Catharina Vork, nee Sellers; Egbert Bol and Pietertje Bol, nee de Vries; Aagje Dwarshuis, nee van der Wijk; Marinus van Duinen and Johanna Marina van Duinen, nee Vermarie; all of whom desire to make profession of faith and to be admitted to the Lord's table. All were accepted.

ARTICLE 2 – Transfers of membership were received for Teunis van Dijk and wife, from Grand Rapids, dated November 11, 1862; Jacob Reidsema, from Jackson, dated November 10, 1862; Cornelis Steketee and wife, from Grand Rapids, dated January 10, 1863; and for T. Vaarwerk, from Grand Rapids. The last mentioned had only a proof of baptism and good conduct in submitting herself to the authority of the church. The majority accepted all of the above-mentioned, and although Wakker affirmed that a statement of membership, such as that of T. Vaarwerk, should not be acknowledged, on the ground that no profession of faith had been made. A lengthy discussion took place, in connection with the baptism of such children, whose parents have not