

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

1-19-1863

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" (1863). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 154.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/154

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.

19 January 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, several new members were received. Several transfers of membership to the church included Cornelis Steketee and his wife, from Grand Rapids. A major discussion arose about infant baptism. Some consistory members disagreed with the interpretation of the pastor in some matters in the discussion. The meeting was adjourned to 29 January.

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. 187-188.

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

made profession of faith and joined the congregation, although they had been baptized in their infancy, and, in that sense, had become part of the body of Christ. The pastor judged that all children of parents who had been baptized, (or one of the parents) should be baptized and have the right to be baptized, because of membership obtained through baptism. This baptism cannot be lost, unless the church which had received them, via baptism, separates them ecclesiastically from membership. The pastor also indicated that he felt it to be his calling to baptize in all such situations, and that it would be a hindrance in his ministerial task if he would be hindered by the consistory or by any individual who involved himself in this matter outside of their authority. He bases this on the fact that the authority of the elders does not pertain here but belongs to the ministry of the Word. Wakker indicated that he could not agree with the above explanation. Other brothers also made their objections known.

Because of the late hour, it was decided to meet again on Friday, the 29th, and then to make the minutes of both meetings in order; whereupon the assembly was closed with prayer by (?).

On the 29th of January, the meeting was opened with prayer by the president, the Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

Brothers Labots, Naber, Vork, and Wilterdink were absent.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes of December 22, 1862, and those of the congregational meeting of January 1, were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – te Roller proposed and it was agreed unanimously that in harmony with the congregational meeting's decision, from now on each year the shortage in the salary of the pastor will be taken from the pew rental funds so that each year in January the full salary of the pastor will be paid to cover any shortage. The receipts of those who make late payments for the salary must be deposited in the pew rental fund.

ARTICLE 3 – The pastor indicates that the request of the previous consistory has been fulfilled and he has investigated at Slag, concerning the complaint which had been received (see Article 5 of December 22, 1862). He indicated that this question had been resolved, but that as far as the baptism of his children is concerned, he maintains his former position.

ARTICLE 4 – Brother Oonk presented the matter of van Dijk and wife, who once again have separated. It was decided that a committee consisting of Oonk and Kamper will inquire concerning the reason for this separation in a visit to van Dijk. They have already spoken with his wife.

ARTICLE 5 - The committee for reviewing the congregational books report that they have found the church books to be in order. For the last year.