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Meeting Notes on the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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24 November 1859

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Reformed Church, a report of the finances was made. Apparently Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was not present but Rev. Giles Van de Wall was. Total expenditures amounted to \$ 948.06. The poor and school funds were short. Van de Wall "powerfully addressed the meeting" about the salary of the pastor. Then it was discussed how the goal could be reached. The amount of \$800 for the pastor was approved unanimously with the exception of one negative vote. Negligent members were to be admonished to pay their share. The motion to enlarge the school of the congregation was voted down.

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. 113-114.

Congregational Meeting of November 24, 1859

ARTICLE 1 – After singing of Psalm 103: 1, the meeting was opened by Elder T. Keppel at the request of the Rev. van de Wall.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous congregational meeting and a report concerning the finances of the past year were approved.

For the poor and other needy of the congregation -	\$637.90
For the academy -	137.24
For the school of the congregation -	42.68
For foreign mission work -	3.10
For missionary work -	86.08
For the schools of higher education -	11.50
In addition, \$9.75 was collected for missionary work at a special missionary service.	
For the Second Church at Chicago -	\$8.81
For the church at Graafschaap -	11.00
Total -	\$948.06

ARTICLE 3 – The congregation was informed that considering the financial condition of the Poor Fund, there will be a shortage of \$20.00, and the school of the congregation will be short \$40.00. It is hoped that by bringing up some additional sums, this shortage can be covered, without having to assess the congregation or goto the East for assistance to the school.

ARTICLE 4 – A report concerning the salary of the pastor and its shortage was placed on the table. The president, the Rev. van de Wall, powerfully addressed the meeting with many reasons, both in the Old and the New Testaments, why this important calling of the congregation required a satisfactory response by the church for the salary of their pastor. After this, there was a discussion concerning how this goal to collect these sums can be met.

ARTICLE 5 – The consistory proposed that the salary for 1860 be stipulated at \$800.00 annually. With the exception of one vote, this was unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 6 – A proposal was made concerning voluntary pledges for raising the money, rather than that the consistory should make an assessment. The majority decided that the consistory

should make a general assessment of the membership.

ARTICLE 7 – The matter of the shortages in previous payments of salary was discussed. There were some who desired that negligent members should be placed under censure. Others wanted the consistory to more actively seek to raise the funds.

Brother Labots reported that our pastor does not wish to have a heated discussion concerning himself but would rather, if it is necessary for the honor of the congregation, suffer financial loss. The matter was closed without a specific decision, except that negligent members should continue to be admonished to fulfill their obligations.

ARTICLE 8 – It was proposed to enlarge the school of the congregation and to improve it, since the primary need is an appropriate building. This proposal was rejected by a small majority, because of the financial need of the times, and because they felt that there was no great need for this proposal.

ARTICLE 9 – The president informs the meeting that the question of retiring consistory members will be postponed until the Rev. van Raalte is back, at which time a congregational meeting will be called.

ARTICLE 10 – The congregation was informed that the books of the church will be available for review from January 24 to 31, 1860, at the home of Deacon D. te Roller.

G. van de Wall, president
G. Wakker, clerk