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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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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*. 157.
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29 January 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church, a meeting that had recessed on 19 January, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte again presided. It was decided that any shortage in the pastor's salary fund would be taken from the pew rental fund. There were several financial reports. It was decided that every family be given envelopes for the funding of the proposed missionary. The pastor would preach on missions before the envelopes were collected. It was also decided that the empty orphanage would be rented for 63 cents per week. [This building may have been used for the parochial school when it was functioning.]

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. 188-190a.

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.

there were receipts of \$672.77.

The unpaid obligations for pew rentals from 1859 and 1860 totaled \$35.45.

The unpaid obligations for pew rentals for 1861 were \$45.36.

The unpaid obligations for pew rentals for 1862 were \$68.40.

All of the above were noted and the church book was signed and closed by the president, A. Plugger, and clerk, G. Wakker. There is a balance of \$21.89, and a bill outstanding to A. Plugger of \$129.34 for monies loaned to the previously existing school of the congregation, and for materials and wood.

The benevolence accounts were found to be in order, after the necessary corrections. There was a receipt of \$-----, and a disbursement of \$----- . This leaves a balance of \$66.21. In addition, there were two notes, involving a sum of \$106.00, not counting the interest. The one originated from land once owned by Widow W. van de Velde, in the sum of \$66.00 and the other from the late Miss Janse ter Vree, in the amount of \$40.00. The committee had decided that the \$86.00 shortage in the salary of the pastor for 1861 would be given to him, as had been decided at the congregational meeting. These sums will come from the pew rentals and will immediately be given to the pastor. It had also become evident that the shortage of 1860 had been taken care of earlier.

The benevolence book was also closed and signed by the president and clerk. The meeting, which had been opened with prayer, was also closed by Brother Keppel.

ARTICLE 6 – Brother te Roller proposed that from now on annually in the month of January, the shortage in the salary will be taken from the pew rental funds. Consequently, the shortage of 1862 will be taken from that fund, so that the pastor can at an appropriate time receive his money, even when some pay their obligations late.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided that for the cause of mission work every family will be given an envelope to make a voluntary pledge of what they expect to contribute yearly, so that our own missionary can be commissioned. Then, after

opening the pledge envelopes, the entire sum will be presented to the classical meeting, and all of the congregations be urged to follow the example of the Holland congregation, so that this goal may be achieved. The pastor was requested to preach about this subject before the envelopes are collected. He will also write an explanation that can be printed.

ARTICLE 8 – J. Wagenaar requested a statement of membership. It was decided to give this to him, but, at the same time, to inform him of his debt for salary and pew rental.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided to rent the empty orphanage for 63 cents per week. The rental of this building was assigned to Wakker, who had asked a question concerning it. The monies must be turned over to the deacons.

ARTICLE 10 – Brother te Roller asks for advice as to how to deal with a request from Berghuis for loaning \$50.00 with good security from the congregational funds. The consistory judges that these monies are intended and given for the maintenance of the church and support of the poor and cannot be used for any other purpose.

ARTICLE 11 – Following custom, all of the brothers declared that no hindrance exists for the communal celebration of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE 12 – It was decided to meet again in three weeks. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Oonk.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of March 30, 1863

Absent: Brothers te Roller and Wilterdink.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, with the following correction in Article 7: The word "yearly" must be deleted and replaced by "for each year, or for a year."

ARTICLE 3 – The committee (see Article 4 of the previous minutes) reports via Brother Oonk. Van Dijk excuses himself completely, but they have urged him to cooperate with his wife.

ARTICLE 4 – It was decided that the grass sods, still lacking on the church property, should be placed, and that the gates should be made so that they can be firmly closed, keeping out the cattle. This work was assigned to the deacons, with the assistance of