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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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G. Wakker

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7 April 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, only seven members were present. It was understood that there would also be English speaking congregations "since the language of preference will sooner or later become English."

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. 191a and 191b.

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Brother Labots was appointed as treasurer and bookkeeper, and Brother Plugger as the guardian of the monies.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to propose to classis to initiate a procedure for sending out at our expense our own missionary.

ARTICLE 8 – Delegates to the classical meeting, to be held on April 1, are Brothers Kamper and Oonk.

ARTICLE 9 – The pastor informs the assembly that he wishes to bring to completion a long-felt desire lodged in his heart to give a gift of land, in part for the Holland Academy, and in part for mission work. Details will be stipulated later. He requests the judgment of the consistory if the rental for this property should be used exclusively for administration or at the direction of the board of trustees, and whether it should be given in the name of the Second Dutch Reformed Church as well.

In the meantime, a letter was brought to the attention of the meeting from the board of education of our denomination. This letter contains a request for monetary contributions, for the purpose of printing books for distribution to soldiers in the army. It was decided to take an offering eight days from today.

Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned until next Monday.
The meeting was closed with prayer by Labots.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 7, 1863

Present: Keppel, Labots, Wakker, Oonk, Geerlings, te Roller, and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – A membership transfer was granted to Pietertje Gord to Noordeloos, and Louis Rachler to New York.

ARTICLE 3 – Due to intervening circumstances, Article 6 of the previous meeting was altered, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Keppel, Geerlings, and te Roller.

ARTICLE 4 – Following up on Article 9 of the previous meeting, the matter proposed there was judged by unanimous vote to be a matter as we look towards the future, for the English as well as the Dutch-speaking congregations, since the language of preference will sooner or later become English.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Labots.

A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk