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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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18 September 1863

Holland, Michigan

In a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, it was noted that the July 17 meeting was not held due to insufficient number of members present. A report on church finances was presented. A committee reported that the painting of the church was contracted for \$125.00. The paint was supplied the contractors through the efforts of Plugger. New members were received. Repairs and maintenance of the orphanage became the responsibility of four consistorymen.

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. 193-194.

Consistory Meeting of September 18, 1863

Absent: Brothers Keppel and Geerlings.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved, with the addition that the extended time of this meeting was caused by the fact that on July 17, there were insufficient members of the consistory present to hold a consistory meeting, and in Article 2 of the previous meeting, there was the insertion of the words “as such.” The necessary correction was made with the insertion of the appropriate words in Article 2.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee mentioned in Article 3 of the previous meeting reported that the financial books of the congregation were found to be in good order, and that in the benevolence fund contained a balance of - \$98.65
The present and received monies totaled - 226.80
Of this amount, the disbursements were - 128.15
Leaving a surplus in the above-mentioned fund of - 98.65
In the church books, there was a receipt of - 835.49
Disbursements of - 777.76
Leaving a surplus of - 57.73 - \$835.49
The obligations for pew rental totaled - \$418. 40.
The committee has closed the books for this period, and they have been signed by Kamper and Wakker.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee (see Article 4 of the previous meeting) reports that they have contracted for the painting of the church to the lowest bidder for \$125.00. They are Mr. Grotenhuis and Mr. Streng. The other bidders were Hogensteger and Brand, whose bid was \$170.00. The committee must provide for the materials, and Mr. Plugger had agreed to this. However, no total could be accurately reported. The work was now nearly complete. The committee proposes that the shed at the well should also be painted. This proposal was accepted, and the same committee was assigned to see to it.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that the members of the consistory who have been appointed to collect the monies for Rutgers College and the Holland Academy should meet on Wednesday, September 23, at 6 P.M. at the home of Wakker.

ARTICLE 6 – Memberships were received for Jan Aaling and Mijske Aaling, nee Neijenhuis, and Jacob Sluiter and Grietje Sluiter, nee Aaling, from Kalamazoo, dated July 1, 1863. Memberships also were received for Hendrik Toren and Anna Toren, nee Hageman, from Zeeland, dated July 20, 1863.

ARTICLE 7 – Necessary repairs and maintenance for the orphanage was assigned to the

committee for repairs on the church. The committee consists of Plugger, Geerlings, te Roller, and Keppel.

ARTICLE 8 – According to our custom, all of the brothers indicated that they are able to celebrate the Lord's Supper communally next Sunday.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided to meet again on Monday, October 5. The meeting was closed by the clerk.

For communion

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of October 5, 1863

Absent: Brothers Broek, Wilterdink, and Naber.

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.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee (see Article 7 of the previous meeting) informs the assembly that they have not been able to give a report concerning the necessary repairs to the so-called orphanage, because they have not done anything on this assignment.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee for collecting monies for Rutgers College informs the assembly that they have already received the sum of \$177.50 in collections. These monies were placed in the hands of the chairman, who had received from R.C. \$100.00 pledge. This brings the total of contributions for this congregation to \$277.50. The monies that have not yet been received will be handed over to the minister.

ARTICLE 5 – A membership statement was received for Johannes Dijkema from Chicago, dated August 24, 1863.

ARTICLE 6 – Herman Grebel entered the meeting desiring to be admitted to the fellowship of the congregation by way of profession of faith. Before going to a question period, the chairman asked about the situation of his divorce. He indicated that, in spite of all possible efforts that he had exerted, his former wife refused to live with him because she has no feeling of love for him. Thereupon, it was decided to bring this matter to classis to avoid any opposition, both as far as it concerns him personally and the congregation.