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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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5 October 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, it was reported that work on the orphanage had not yet begun. The sum of \$277.50 was pledged by the congregation for Rutgers College. A person appeared who wished to enter the membership of the church. However, since he was divorced, the consistory would not accept him but would bring the matter to the classis. The roof of the stables was developing leaks, preventing its use. A committee was appointed to make the improvements.

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. 194-195.

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.

The above-mentioned Mr. Grebel agreed with this, and will return at the next meeting in fourteen days.

ARTICLE 7 – Delegates to the upcoming classis, which is to be held on October 14, were appointed, namely, Oonk and Wakker, with Keppel as alternate for Oonk, and Broek as alternate for Wakker.

ARTICLE 8 – Because the stables at the church can no longer be used, since rain leaks into the building, a committee, consisting of Plugger, Geerlings, te Roller, and Keppel, was appointed to bring about improvements.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided to meet again in fourteen days. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Oonk.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of October 19, 1863

Absent: Brothers Plugger, Geerlings, te Roller, and Oonk.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Mar(?) Geluk entered the meeting, requesting baptism for his child. Since he was not a member of the congregation, an inquiry was made concerning his knowledge of divine truths. In his absence, the matter of membership of such individuals was discussed. May people who were baptized in infancy and in that sense engrafted into the Christian church, but have never made profession of faith, be admitted to communion? A further question is whether such children should or should not be baptized? In this discussion, strongly opposing views were expressed, and no unity could be achieved. Finally, it was decided by a majority vote to baptize this man's child under the condition that he would permit himself to be instructed and submit himself to the discipline and admonition of the church. He also must assist in bearing the burdens of the congregation. This decision of the majority of the consistory was given to the above-mentioned Geluk and he declared that he was willing to submit to its implications.

ARTICLE 3 – A letter from Rev. Phelps was read. He requests the purchase of the so-called orphanage and lot on behalf of the Holland Academy. Rental of the property is also an option.