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### Meeting of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church

J. Labots

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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24 November 1863

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, Psalm 22, verse three was sung and the pastor opened with prayer. Every elder and deacon who had filled their term were reelected. The additional elder and deacon were also elected. The elder was a de Bruin of Zeeland who now lived in Holland. The financial report was that \$1,375.35 had been collected that year for all causes [possibly with the exception of the pastor's salary]. The collection for Rutgers College came to \$280.00 and for the Holland Academy, \$229.35. It was decided not to sell the orphanage but to give it to the Holland Academy. The congregation would also be canvassed by order of the classis for the support of two instructors at the Holland Academy. "The meeting was closed by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte, and the singing of the last verse of the Ten Commandments."

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. 199-200.

Congregational Meeting of November 24, 1863

ARTICLE 1 – After the singing of Psalm 22: 3, the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte, as chairman.

Wakker was absent, due to illness, and Labots was appointed to take the minutes.

ARTICLE 2 – The president proposes to the congregational meeting to ballot for the retiring one-half of the consistory. They are the elders;

H. Kamper

J. J. Wilterdink

H. Broek

W. Oonk

All of the above were reelected.

The retiring deacons are:

A. Plugger

A. Geerlings

J. Vork

All of the above were reelected.

ARTICLE 3 – The president reports that the consistory has decided to add one elder to the ballot and wanted to call to the attention of the congregation (without hindering the free choice), that Brother de Bruin has served as elder in the congregation of Zeeland, and that he is now living here.

At the opening of the ballots, it appeared that de Bruin was chosen as an elder of this congregation with 36 votes.

ARTICLE 4 – The president utilized the same approach in the election of a deacon, and calls attention to Brother Frederik Kieft. He was elected with 31 votes.

ARTICLE 5 - The financial condition of the congregation for 1863 up to November 24 was read to the congregation and is as follows:

The regular Sunday collections -	\$720.57
Monthly missionary collection -	65.79
Collections for the widows of pastors -	19.61
Collection for the board of publication -	19.53
Collection for education -	40.00
Receipts from a drive for Rutgers College -	280.00
Collection for the Academy (up to October 14) -	229.85
Total	\$1,375.35

In addition to the pledged and received monies for the mission work of Brother Kersten, \$600.00 was received.

ARTICLE 6 – The congregation was informed of a decision of the consistory (see Article 5 of the November 16 meeting), namely, the purpose for which the orphanage will be used. It was decided not to sell this house to the Holland Academy, but to give it.

ARTICLE 7 – There was a discussion concerning the partial annual salary determined by classis for two instructors at the Holland Academy, a sum of \$600.00. It was proposed and accepted that the consistory accept the responsibility in the name of the congregation for annually collecting this fund. The portion, which is the responsibility for this congregation, is assessed at 25 cents for each member.

The meeting was closed by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte, and the singing of the last verse of the Ten Commandments.

J. Labots  
G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of January 11, 1864

Absent: Brothers Broek, Oonk, Naber, and Vork.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read, as well as those of the congregational meeting, and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Membership received for S. M. de Bruin and wife; also Janneke Biesheuvel, all from Zeeland, dated August 10, 1863.

A membership statement was received for Hendrika Grevestuk from Grand Haven, dated November 18, 1863. An accompanying statement refers to a dubious relationship with a person who was divorced from his wife through the civil authorities. This divorce was not based on adultery, and consequently the (Grand Haven) consistory was of the opinion that in case a marriage should later occur, they would not hesitate before placing her under censure.

Taking into consideration that this case had already been handled at the most recent classical meeting, and that classis made no decision, the majority opinion was that it is (particularly in this case) correct to acquiesce in the decision of the civil authorities,