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### Meeting Notes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

William Buursma

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#### Recommended Citation

Buursma, William, "Meeting Notes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1851). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 197.

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5 February 1851

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided; elders present were Hekhuis, Labots, and Broek and deacons, Wilterdink, de Weerd, Plugger, and van den Berg. The Consistory again dealt with problems. A committee judged that van Tongeren had taken eight cords of bark from Plugger unjustly. C. Smit was admonished not to take trees from property not belonging to him and stop his thievery. The problem between Brouwer and Kuipers was not yet settled. Schrader and van Putten's problem was settled in the presence of Jan Binnenkant.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. William Buursma.

Original in the collection of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, volume I, pp. 10-13.

His appearance, however, brought about no change, since the assembly could not find evidence of his repentance, and, therefore, the previous decision stands.

Nothing more requiring the attention of the gathering, the meeting was closed with prayer by Elder Labots.

#### Meeting of February 5, 1851

Present were Rev. van Raalte, president; Hekhuis, Labots, and Broek, elders; Wilterdink, de Weerd, Plugger, and van den Berg, deacons.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the president.

ARTICLE 1 – The committee appointed in Article 4 of the meeting of November 5 reported concerning their investigation and indicated that they had examined the books of Plugger in the matter of Binnenkant. They determined, in the first place, that the monies paid to Binnenkant by van Tongeren was, indeed, owed to Binnenkant. Included in this was the cost of freight for bark.

Secondly, that the dispute concerning van Tongeren placing his materials, the judgment was made that he had acted properly. Thirdly, it becomes apparent from van Tongeren's bookkeeping that he has unjustly taken 8 cords of bark from Plugger. On the contrary, Plugger paid him for four additional cords of bark, and van Tongeren must still provide for this.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother C. Smit, who had been requested to appear at the meeting, was asked whether he has continuously been taking trees from the forest belonging to another. His answer was that his sons took a tree from the forest without his knowledge, while they were sent to cut down some firewood. The president replies that he (Smit) had taken the above-mentioned wood into his house and, therefore, was aware of it. His reply was that his sons have come to an age that there was nothing he could do. The assembly adds a comment that he (Smit) has frequently been guilty of stealing wood; in fact, that he has even built a house from this practice, etc. He was admonished to study God's Word in the case of Eli, as recorded in Samuel 2 and 3. In addition, he was instructed to cease his thievery

and that of his children, etc.,etc.

ARTICLE 3 – Brothers Labots and van den Berg report concerning the matter of Brouwer and Kuipers (see Article 2, meeting of December 26. They indicate that Brouwer, after the meeting, had expressed sorrow for his sins and that he would satisfy Kuipers. However, half of the agreement must still be fulfilled. They (the committee) indicated that they have discussed the matter with him, but that he does not appear willing to take further steps to fulfill his agreement. Since Brouwer, in a deceptive and groundless fashion, attempted to lay suspicion upon Kuipers, thus in a dishonest manner seeking to be relieved of his debt, he is earnestly admonished and instructed to fulfill his promise. This is done even though he has been unwilling to confess his guilt. The judgment of the assembly was requested, and it was decided that Brothers Labots and van den Berg must once again urge him (Brouwer) to fulfill his promise, and, if he continues to refuse, to inform him that church discipline will be applied and that he will not be permitted to participate in the sacraments.

ARTICLE 4 – Brother van Putten appeared with a complaint

against Brother Schrader; namely, that he (van Putten) had made cleaning brushes at 7 cents each, and that he had received no remuneration but had been granted the right to harvest pine wood for 3 shillings a cord (from Schrader's property). He states that the bill had been presented and that he (van Putten) was still owed some money by Schrader. However, when van Putten asked for his money some time later, he was told (by Schrader) that he had heard that wood was now more expensive, and, consequently, van Putten had no further money coming. Schrader also appeared at the meeting, and both parties agreed to settle the matter in the presence of Brother Binnenkant.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Elder Broek.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Burgma,  
Translating*