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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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17 February 1864

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 the work on the balcony would be completed and that the seats could be rented soon. The matter of infant baptism came up again in reference to the acceptance of some new members.

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. 203a, 203b, and 204.

ARTICLE 5 – There was a discussion concerning the necessity of catechism for those who are not attending the regular classes taught by the pastor. The discussion included whether it was desirable to have a Sunday evening catechism class in the village, taking into consideration the weakened condition of the pastor, who had previously taught a class in school house #3 on a weekly basis.

It was decided that Brother Broek is to teach catechism in that neighborhood. He will be released from attendance at meetings and contributions.

As far as a Sunday evening class in the village is concerned, no decision was made.

ARTICLE 6 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Broek.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of February 17, 1864

Absent: Brothers Broek, Labots, Wilterdink, Naber, and Kieft.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved, with the addition to Article 5 that the elders will take turns teaching a catechism class in the village on Sunday evening.

ARTICLE 3 – A membership transfer was requested and granted for M. van de Linde to the Second congregation here. Also a statement was granted for Dalman and wife to Graafschaap.

ARTICLE 4 – Because of certain difficulties between Kroon and van Apeldoorn, the pastor, Kamper, and Oonk were appointed, with a mandate to attempt to resolve these difficulties.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee mandated to arrange for additional seating in the church and in the balcony reports that they have contracted to the lowest bidder, namely, Toorn and Kamper for the sum of \$82.49, and that the work will be completed next week, so that the seats can be rented.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that the time for rental of the new seating will be set for Saturday, February 7, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. To make the arrangements and regulations for the rental, Brothers Keppel, Plugger, and te Roller were appointed.

ARTICLE 7 – The committee mentioned in connection with the sale of a lot (see Article 6, January 11, minutes, reports that M. J. Reidsema desires to purchase the lot for \$150.00, with payment of \$75.00 in May of 1864 and the rest in May of 1865.

This was received for information and the consistory advises the committee that it is wiser to confirm the purchase by a contract rather than through a mortgage. The committee is in agreement with this judgment.

ARTICLE 6 (sic) – A membership statement was received for R. Kwantes and wife given by S. D. van Spackeren, minister in the State Reformed Church of Goedereede, the Netherlands. This statement of membership was placed on the table, and it was decided that these members will be asked to appear at a consistory meeting. If this is not possible, then the wife is to receive a visit from the committee at her home for an interview. The pastor, Wakker, and Keppel were appointed. The pastor prefers not to be part of this committee, because he has a different point of view concerning the extent of the baptism for infants who are children of parents who have not made profession of faith. This difference of opinion includes some members of the consistory.

ARTICLE 7 (sic)– At his request, S. Westveer was granted a raise in his salary for his work in the church during the winter months, namely, \$2.00 per week.

ARTICLE 8 – The next meeting of the consistory will take place at the time of the full moon. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother de Bruin.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of March 13, 1864

Absent: Brother Vork.

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 of line in Article 6.

ARTICLE 3 – Membership statements were received for Sjoerd Posthumus and Beukje Posthumus, nee van Vliet.

ARTICLE 4 – The pastor reports on the reason for calling this meeting. He indicates that he feels compelled to give heed to the advice of the doctors, who have once again said to him that if he did not wish to destroy himself, he must take a necessary rest. The Rev., therefore, proposed that he should resign as a minister of this congregation, or that he be relieved of all congregational responsibility and activities, with the exception of preaching on Sundays. This should be for one year to see whether there is a restoration of physical strength, and in case he, after a half-year, has not improved, he would inform the consistory, so that