

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

3-21-1864

Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s

The original documents are held in The Joint Archives of Holland. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from [The Joint Archives of Holland](#).

Recommended Citation

Wakker, G.; Buursma, William; and Buursma, Althea, "Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1864). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 211.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/211

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

21 March 1864

Holland, Michigan

In the absence of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, Elder Teunis Keppel was chosen to chair this meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church. Several problems had to be dealt with. F. Beeuwkes and his wife were received from the Alto, Wisconsin, congregation.

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. 205-207.

they can deal as circumstances require, in order to provide for the needs of the congregation. After this dual proposal was discussed, the consistory, with but one exception, voted unanimously to take the second proposal.

ARTICLE 5 – It was proposed that, given the information received about the situation of the pastor, and the judgment of the physicians, he should also be relieved of preaching for the next two months, in order to better achieve the rest which has been recommended. After having spoken about this, and after the Rev. had indicated that preaching does not cause him that much difficulty, and he also is not at all eager to stop, whether it be once or twice on Sunday, it was decided that the minister will preach only one time each Sunday for the next two months. Rev. Oggel will attempt to take over the responsibilities for the catechism classes.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that on Sunday afternoon, the congregation will be informed about the above-mentioned decision. They will be told that from now on all congregational matters are not to be brought to the minister but to the clerk of the consistory; this because of the situation of the pastor.

ARTICLE 7 – The next consistory meeting will be next Monday at 6:30, at the home of Brother Plugger. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Kamper.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of March 21, 1864

Absent: Brothers Broek, Vork, and Naber. Later, Broek entered the meeting.

ARTICLE 1 – Due to the absence of Rev. van Raalte, the meeting was opened with prayer by the clerk.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Keppel was appointed as the chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided that, as long as the pastor is not present at the consistory meetings, the elders will take their turns as chairman.

ARTICLE 4 – Present at the meeting was W. ter Haar, who complained about a perceived injustice or insult inflicted by the widow van Duren, who allegedly had lost \$5.00 of monies he had entrusted to her care. He reports that for some time A. van Elferding had given to the widow van Duren monies at Grand Haven. She, in turn, had given them to W. ter Haar, but the following morning when he counted, he discovered that there was \$5.00

less than Elferding had received. He had asked the widow van Duren if she had seen Elferding take this money. Her response was affirmative, which set his mind at ease. However, after the passing of a few months, a discussion took place about this \$5.00, and, although the widow van Duren had told at least three or more people about the business mentioned above, now she claims that she had never received this money. He (ter Haar) has spoken to her about this matter many times, and was insulted by her. He had accepted this but now that she denies having received the monies from Elferding and the \$5.00 is still missing, he believes she has gone too far. For this reason, he has come to the consistory, because all his efforts with her have been fruitless, even when he came with witnesses, Brothers Kamper and Wilterdink.

After having heard all of this, it was decided to deliberate about this later, whereupon W. ter Haar left the meeting.

ARTICLE 5 – Also present at the meeting was R. Kwantes, who desired to be acknowledged as a member of the church, as well as his wife, who was not present (see the second Article 6 of the February 17 minutes). After having questioned him, the assembly decided, in his absence, that he could be accepted. Keppel and Wakker reported about the condition of the wife, as they had experienced it at family visiting. They had not been there as a committee, because the minister was not involved. However, the clerk had invited her to come to the consistory, and had also spoken with her, finding her to be terribly ignorant.

The assembly judged that this woman should come to the consistory and, because of her ignorance, cannot now be received. The chairman informs Kwantes of this and he requests the earnest prayers of the brothers for him and his wife, adding that if things did not change, he would be lost eternally.

ARTICLE 6 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 7 – Membership transfers received for F. Beeuwkes and wife, from Alto, Wisconsin, dated February 14, 1864.

ARTICLE 8 – In the matter of W. ter Haar, and the widow van Duren, it was decided to appoint a committee to investigate, and, if at all possible, to resolve the question. The committee consists of Labots and Keppel.

ARTICLE 9 – The consistory will meet again in fourteen days, and Brother Broek was take his turn to preside. The meeting was ended with prayer by Brother Oonk.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 8, 1864

Absent: Brothers Wilterdink, Vork, Naber, Plugger, and Broek, who later entered the meeting.

ARTICLE 1 – Because Brother Broek was still absent, Brother Kamper presided and opened the meeting with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Present at the meeting were Anna and Miena Jonker, who desired by way of profession of faith to be admitted to the table of the Lord. After the president had asked a few questions, further discussion was broken off, because of the nervous spell which overtook Miena. For this reason, it was decided to appoint a committee to visit them at their home the next night, in order to continue the discussion. The committee consists of Keppel and Wakker.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership transfer received for Hendrik de Kruif and Diena de Kruif, nee van de Luyster, from Zeeland, dated April 7, 1864.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee (see Article of the previous minutes) reports that the discussion at the home of widow van Duren and Elferding had done nothing to clear up the matter, because the testimony of both parties was completely contradictory.

The committee proposed, therefore, to hear both parties at the consistory. It was decided to hold this proposal in abeyance for some time, and to request the committee to do everything possible to investigate the matter, and then later to invite both parties to come to the consistory, if the matter cannot be cleared up in any other way.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that next Thursday, the prayer day for crops, the collection will be for the Holland Academy.

ARTICLE 7 – Brother Oonk informs the meeting that the Sunday evening meetings in his neighborhood are poorly attended. It was decided to give publicity to this, and if more interest is not shown,