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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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8 April 1864

Holland, Michigan

In the absence of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, Elder Kamper was elected chair of the consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church. New members were received and routine matters were dealt with.

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. 207-208.

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,

the meetings will be discontinued, at least for the summer months.

ARTICLE 8 – The consistory appointed Keppel and Wakker as delegates to the next meeting of classis. Kamper will be the alternate for Wakker, and Broek for Keppel.

ARTICLE 9 – A question whether the gifts received from Jacob Reidsema can be received was postponed until the next meeting.

ARTICLE 10 – A committee, consisting of Labots and de Bruin, was appointed to advise Jan M. Reidsema to refrain from celebrating communion this time in order to avoid offense, because of the accusation that he was aware that his son Jacob had taken property which belonged to another.

ARTICLE 11 – All of the brothers indicate that they are able to celebrate communion with one another. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Labots.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of May 4, 1864

Absent: Vork and Naber.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by the previous chairman Kamper.

ARTICLE 2 – Present at the meeting were Abraham Leenhouts, who presented a membership statement for him and his wife, Mies Leenhouts, nee Groot, and his brother, Jannes Leenhouts, from Kalamazoo, dated September 29, 1862. He (Abraham) was asked why he had not presented these transfers of membership at his previous residence in Grandville or Zeeland. The consistory judged that these transfers can be accepted.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee (see Article 3 of the previous meeting) reports that Anna Jonker was received by them on the basis of profession. She and Miena had been unable to talk because of nervousness at the previous meeting. The interview was postponed and was favorably completed at the home of their father.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee (see Article 5 of the previous meeting) reported that they have not been able to make progress and proposed that both parties be requested to come to the consistory for a discussion of the matter.