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### Minutes of the Classis of Holland

A. C. Van Raalte

William Buursma

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April 7-8, 1875

Holland, Michigan

In the minutes of the Classis of Holland of this date, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte reported in item 16 for his committee of which he was chair on the Drenthe congregation. The committee reported that the situation is now encouraging and the congregation plans to build a new structure. When students, A. Wormser and W. Hasenberg, will be examined in the Classis, Van Raalte is the examiner in theology. Van Raalte also served on the appointments committee at that Classis meeting. It appears that VR is still active at this time.

In Dutch; translated by Rev. William Buursma.

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

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VOLUME 4

*Vol. IV*

ACTS  
OF THE  
CLASSIS OF HOLLAND  
FROM APRIL, 1875 - 1882

PAGE 2

CLASSICAL MEETING

HELD

AT

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

APRIL 7-8, 1875

FIRST SESSION

ARTICLE 1

The regular spring meeting of Classis Holland was held at Holland, Michigan. It was opened on April 7, 1875, with the singing of Psalm 100: 1, 2, and with prayer by the retiring president, Rev. H. Uiterwijk.

ARTICLE 2

The names of the delegates were read and noted as follows:

Beaverdam - Rev. J. Broek; Elder J. Ebels  
Drenthe - Elder William Kremers  
Ebenezer - Rev. A. C. Kuiper; Elder G. J. Wolterdink  
Fijnaart - Rev. J. F. Zwemer; Elder J. Heerenga  
Graafschaap - Rev. William van der Kley; Elder H. Strabbing  
First Holland - Rev. R. Pieters; Elder J. Peyster  
Third Holland - Rev. H. Uiterwijk; Elder H. Manting  
Jamestown - Elder H. van der Bunte  
North Holland - Rev. B. van Ess; Elder T. Bos  
Overijssel - Rev. G. J. Nykerk; Elder G. Kooyker  
East Overijssel -  
Rotterdam -  
Saugatuck - Elder J. Ensing  
Vriesland - Rev. P. de Pree; Elder H. O. Yntema  
Zabriskie Memorial -  
Zeeland - Rev. William Moerdijk; Elder H. van Noorden

Rev. A. C. van Raalte

ARTICLE 3

Rev. G. J. Nykerk was chosen as classical president, and Rev. J. F. Zwemer was appointed to serve as temporary secretary. The president led in prayer.

ARTICLE 4

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 5

The following brothers were seated as corresponding members: From Classis Wisconsin - Rev. A. Buursma; From Classis Grand River - Revs. C. van der Meulen, N. H. Dosker, M. Kiekintveld, E. C. Oggel; and Elder F. van Driele.

ARTICLE 6

By request, the rules of order for classis were read.

ARTICLE 7

Two requests sent to the stated clerk were presented: one from the consistory of Jamestown and one from Zeeland. In both cases, it was decided to assign these letters to the committee on order and church discipline.

ARTICLE 8

The following committees were appointed by the president and approved by the assembly.

Minutes - Revs. B. van Ess, J. F. Zwemer, Elder J. Peyster.  
Order and discipline - Revs. W. van der Kley, A. C. Kuiper, Elder G. Kooyker.  
Finances - Revs. P. de Pree, H. Uiterwijk; Elder J. Peyster.  
Preaching assignments - Revs. W. Moerdijk, J. F. Zwemer, Elder H. Manting.  
Appointments - Revs. A. C. van Raalte, R. Pieters; Elder William Kremers.  
School and education - Revs. H. Uiterwijk, P. de Pree; Elder T. Bos.  
Missions - Revs. G. J. Nykerk, R. Pieters; Elder H. Manting.  
Leave of absence - Revs. A. C. Kuiper, J. F. Zwemer; Elder J. Peyster.

ARTICLE 9

The congregational reports on the statistics and the state of the church were each read individually. Thereupon, the following report of the classical committee for statistics and the state of the church was received and approved:

Your committee has received reports from all of the congregations, and we have compared the submitted totals with those of the previous year. We can say that in every respect we have grown. After all, numbers that have been gathered concerning those who are faithful ought not to give cause for misinformation. These numbers should correspond to the total of God's people included in his kingdom. Such statistics always give a clear window into our inner domestic life, except for the fact that we, as children of the Father, can only work according to our human capacities.

Although we must confess our weakness, we know that God's power will be fulfilled in us, and this awareness gives us reason to work in the harvest gathered in the Lord's acre.

ARTICLE 13

The following nominations, presented by the committee on nominations, were presented and confirmed:

Delegates to Classis Grand River

Primarii	Secundi
Rev. R. Pieters	Rev. B. van Ess
Rev. A. C. Kuiper	Rev. J. F. Zwemer

Delegates to Classis Wisconsin

Rev. H. Uiterwijk	Rev. G. J. Nykerk
Rev. P. de Pree	Rev. W. van der Kley

Delegates to the Particular Synod

Rev. B. van Ess	Rev. P. de Pree
Rev. W. van der Kley	Rev. J. Broek
Rev. H. Uiterwijk	Rev. R. Pieters
Rev. J. F. Zwemer	Rev. G. J. Nykerk
Elder T. Keppel	Elder J. den Herder
Elder W. Kremers	Elder H. Strabbing
Elder E. Sprik	Elder R. Schilleman
Elder G. J. Wolterink	Elder H. O. Yntema

Delegates to the General Synod

Rev. P. de Pree	Rev. W. Moerdijk
Rev. J. Broek	Rev. B. van Ess
Rev. G. J. Nykerk	Rev. H. Uiterwijk
Elder T. Keppel	Elder J. Heerenga
Elder J. de Peyster	Elder H. Mannting
Elder T. Bos	Elder G. Kooyker

For the council of Hope College, Rev. R. Pieters will serve in the place of Rev. D. Broek, who has moved.

(was signed) A. C. van Raalte, Chairman

accepted. Building materials have been assembled and the actual building will very likely proceed speedily. In all of the period in which your committee has been meeting with the congregation of Drenthe, arrangements have been made for regular preaching assignments. We may now hope that the congregation will soon have its own pastor again. At least, we can report that an unanimous call has been extended to Student A. Wormser. Should the Lord incline his heart to accept this call, the needs of this congregation will have speedily been taken care of.

(was signed) A. C. van Raalte, Chairman ✓

Received and approved.

ARTICLE 17

The following report of the committee on church order and discipline was received and approved:

1. Your committee has received a request from the consistory of the congregation of Zeeland, requesting permission of classis to excommunicate a female member of the church, who for more than fifteen months has left her husband and has refused to heed the admonition of the consistory.

Your committee judges that the request of the consistory as it is presently formulated cannot be granted until further clear-cut information is provided by the consistory for the deliberation of classis.

Your committee recommends that the delegates presenting this matter (Zeeland consistory) be requested to present additional information which will help classis in making its judgment.

2. Your committee has also received a communication from the consistory of the congregation of Jamestown, inquiring whether a majority of only one vote



ARTICLE 16

The committee appointed to deal with the concerns of the congregation of Drenthe reported as follows:

The first meeting with the congregation of Drenthe was held on the 22nd of September, 1874. At the suggestion of Brother H. Rozema, the consistory was dissolved.

The second meeting held on the 12th of October, 1874, was informed by Brother R. van Zwalenburg that, with the exception of a few families, the congregation had decided to solicit support for a new church building. Initial reports were encouraging, and the location for the church was chosen. A site was purchased in an area east of the school building. A building committee was appointed, consisting of the following persons: W. Kremers. S. Opt'Holt, H. Bakker, J. Lubbers, R. van Zwaluwenburg. In addition, the Brethren R. Nyenhuis and H. Sprik were appointed to serve the congregation in the absence of preachers. Brothers K. Boer, R. van Zwaluwenburg, S. Opt'Holt, and H. Lubbers were appointed to serve as deacons.

Statements of membership, which had been requested, given the special circumstances, were denied.

The last meeting was held on March 1, 1875, with the purpose of choosing consistory members. It was decided to have free elections of three elders and three deacons. The result of the election was as follows: Elders H. Sprik and W. Kremers for two years, and A. Lanning for one year. Deacons S. Opt'Holt and R. van Zwaluwenburg for two years; and H. Lubbers for one year.

Finally, your committee reports that it is its conviction that the situation of the congregation of Drenthe is now encouraging, and now with God's blessing offers the possibility for a good future.

The plan for a new church building is already

ARTICLE 22

Revs. H. Uiterwijk, R. Pieters, and J. Broek, appointed as a committee to make arrangements for the installation of Rev. J. van der Meulen as pastor and teacher in the congregation of Jamestown, presented the following:

Rev. C. van der Meulen (requested), Rev. P. de Pree, Rev. W. Moerdijk, and Rev. J. Broek. These arrangements were approved.

ARTICLE 23

It was decided that arrangements will be made for examining theological students A. Wormser and W. Hasenberg at such a time as the above-mentioned brethren request. At least three weeks' notice must be given for the date of the meeting.

The following report of the committee for regulations of the examination was received and approved:

	Primarii	Secundi
Theology -	Rev. A. C. van Raalte ✓	Rev. P. de Pree
Hebrew -	Rev. H. Uiterwijk	Rev. J. F. Zwemer
Greek -	Rev. W. Moerdijk	Rev. J. Broek
Biblical criticism -	Rev. P. de Pree	Rev. B. van Ess
Personal piety and view of the ministry -	Rev. A. C. Kuiper	Rev. G. J. Nykerk

The time of the examination is not specified.

Committee: Rev. R. Pieters, Chairman  
Rev. J. Broek  
Rev. A. C. Kuiper

ARTICLE 24

The report of the treasurer of the school board was delivered and received for information.

ARTICLE 25

Rev. D. Broek, having accepted a call to Cleveland, at his request, was granted dismissal to the classis of Geneva.