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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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5 September 1864

Holland, Michigan

Elder Teunis Keppel opened the consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church with prayer in the absence of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. The clerk, G. Wakker, did not record who was elected chairman of the meeting. The books of the church were reviewed and appeared to be in good order. It was expressed that house visitation and regular catechism instruction were needed. The consistory hoped that the pastor would soon resume his work.

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. 216-217.

and, since some of these preaching assignments are at the request of and in the presence of Rev. van Raalte, these appearances are more in the form of a permission for young students instead of providing for a need in the congregation.

An educated or intelligent human being in such a position should not even think of being paid or requesting money. Moreover, the spirit in which the letter is written is incorrect. It was decided to write him as follows:

The consistory of the First Holland congregation

To: D. Broek

"We have received from our clerk a letter which you wrote, and we make the following comments in connection with remarks addressed to us. We reply that the debt you refer to in your writing is one that we cannot acknowledge. We call attention to the fact that the spirit of your letter of admonition conflicts with your position (as a seminary student)."

The clerk was instructed to bring this matter to his attention.

ARTICLE 9 – According to custom, all the brothers testify that they are able to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a fraternal fashion.

The meeting was closed by Brother Vork.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of September 5, 1864

Absent: de Bruin, Naber, and Kieft.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Keppel.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee for a review of the books reports that everything was found to be in good order, and the book for church funds contains the sum of \$216.35. Furthermore, the book of the deacons includes the sum of \$78.77. This report was signed by J. Labots and T. Keppel, committee.

ARTICLE 4 – There was a discussion about the mission fund, and it was decided that, just as last year, pledges will be brought to the homes for signatures, indicating what members will be able to give this year. The clerk was requested to read this decision next Sunday in church. The reason why these monies are needed is for the support of Rev. Karsten.

ARTICLE 5 – The clerk calls to the attention of the deacons that, because of the advanced date of classis, they should collect the monies from this congregation for the support of the Holland Academy as quickly as possible.

ARTICLE 6 – Brothers Kamper and Broek were delegated to the coming classis, and Labots will serve as alternate for Kamper, and Wilterdink for Broek.

ARTICLE 7 – There was a continued discussion about the great need for visiting the membership in their homes and regular catechism instruction. No decision was made, but it is hoped that the pastor will soon be able to accomplish this work.

ARTICLE 8 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Labots.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory meeting of October 16, 1864

Absent: Brothers Broek, Oonk, Vork, and Plugger.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Wakker.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Labots was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – A membership transfer was received for Gerrit van der Kreek, from Kalamazoo, dated September 16, 1864. Also a statement for Cornelis Lepeltak and wife, from Grand Haven, dated May, 1864.

ARTICLE 5 – Present at the meeting were Jenke Kroes, Jaantje Keppel, Henriette Vaupel, Aaltje Toorn, Marie van Raalte; all of whom wished to be admitted to the table of the Lord by profession of faith. After having been questioned, the clerk stated that, in his judgment, they were so young and should be advised to postpone their request and to examine themselves further. Three other brothers expressed agreement, namely, Kamper, Naber, and Kieft. Keppel, Wilterdink, and Geerlings took no position. Labots, de Bruin, and te Roller voted to admit them. After this matter had been discussed, Keppel and Wilterdink voted for admission. The chairman informed them that the consistory had voted to accept them, although some of the brothers had some objections based on their youth. Afterwards, they