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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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William Buursma

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28 November 1854

Holland, Michigan

Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided over the meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church. Several problems confronted the members: discontent in the congregation, slander of a particular member, enlarging the number serving in the Consistory, and several money problems.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. William Buursma.

Original in the collection of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, volume I, pp. 112-113.

Meeting of November 28, 1854

Present were Elders Labots, Apeldoorn, Jonker, Wilterdink, Broek, and Hekhuis; and Deacon Keppel.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 2 – It was decided not to utilize pew rentals for this year, but to continue as has been in the past the system in the old church. The reason for this is the fact that the new building is not yet ready, as well as the lack of funds within the congregation.

ARTICLE 3 – A certain William Mulder has threatened to make public his assertion that the pastor and consistory are dealing wickedly. It was decided to invite him to come to the congregational meeting next Thursday to present his case, in order that the congregation will not be disturbed by his slander.

ARTICLE 4 – The consistory is willing to test the feelings of the congregation to see whether they have their confidence. They do not feel the need to resign. It was decided that it is necessary to enlarge the consistory. During the six weeks between now and mid-January, the congregation will be asked to hand in sealed letters indicating their choices. The consistory will do this as well. After this, the consistory will form a double nomination and, after prayer, the choice will be made by the congregation.

ARTICLE 5 – The subject of the Thanksgiving Day collection is brought to the table. The consensus is that it should be designated for the education of the youth, because the school treasury is in arrears.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to ask a committee from the congregation to serve with advice in the matter of how much the carpenters building the new church will be remunerated.

ARTICLE 7 – Hoogenhorst and wife were given permission to express their grievances with the pastor and consistory.

ARTICLE 8 – An accounting of the poor fund will be made by a committee from the congregation, in addition to the consistory.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Apeldoorn.

A. C. van Raalte

Consistory Meeting Held on December 29, 1854

Present were Elders Broek, Apeldoorn, Wilterdink, Hekhuis, and Jonker, and Deacon Plugger, as well as Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte. The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – The Brothers Wilterdink and Broek inform the consistory that William Mulder has presented an excuse for not

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24, 1855

Volume I

Rev. William Burgma,
Translator