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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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William Buursma

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18 January 1855

Holland, Michigan

At this meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church, Jan B. de Vries and Lambertus van Dis appeared to make profession of their faith but "because of their lack of knowledge, they were rejected and given opportunity to attend catchism twice weekly." Pieter Nagelkerks asked for his statement of membership because he wished to withdraw from the congregation because of the "defects" in the congregation. Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided at the meeting and also wrote up the minutes.

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.115-117.

Meeting held on January 18, 1855

Present were Elders Broek, Hekhuis, Apeldoorn, Jonker, Wilterdink and Labots, and Deacons Keppel, G. W. Wilterdink, and Plugger, as well as A. C. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1. The meeting was opened with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – Jan B. de Vries and Lambertus van Dis appeared in order to make public profession of their faith, but, because of their lack of knowledge, they were rejected and given opportunity to attend catechism twice weekly. Francientje Bogaarts, wife of van Dis, made profession of faith and was accepted.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – A written request from Pieter Nagelkerke, asking for a statement of membership, was read. It is his intention to sever his ties with the congregation. A committee was appointed in order to call to the attention of the brother the awful wrath and anger which awaits him, and to admonish him concerning his chosen pathway. Rev. van Raalte informs the meeting that Deacon Keppel has spoken with Nagelkerke and that he (Nagelkerke) acknowledges living in a total bitter situation. He finds many defects in the congregation, consistory, and pastor, and that he has already for a long time

felt this way, and has not been present for holy communion. Rev. van Raalte, in his capacity as pastor and teacher, has forbidden him access to the table because of his arrogant and hardened attitude.

The brothers decide to continue to work with him by way of admonishing, informing him that if he insists on a statement of membership a truthful testimonial will be given concerning his attitude.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to mandate Grootenhuis to make measurements of the cemetery.

ARTICLE 6 – It will be necessary next Sunday to announce that on eight days after the next Wednesday all ballots for consistory members must be handed in, so that the consistory will be able to proceed in forming a double nomination.

ARTICLE 7 – There was much discussion about the connection of the grown-up children of the congregation and their relationship to the church. Does their relationship rest upon God's covenant, or upon their profession of the truth and a righteous walk with God? What role does the lack of knowledge play, and can it be a reason for excommunication? In what areas must this lack of knowledge be found? Is profession of faith an institution ordained by God? Should holy communion be celebrated by the entire family of God?

and more similar questions. Although there are various viewpoints expressed, all agree that education must be stressed, and that we must require of our members profession of their faith.

ARTICLE 8 – After various discussions concerning different persons and matters, the meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Wilterdink.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting of February 4-1855

Present were Elders Jonker, Broek, Labots, Wilterdink, Apeldoorn, and Hekhuis;
Deacons Plugger and Keppel; and Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes of the previous session were read and approved, after opening with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – The purpose of this meeting is to formulate a double nomination for the election of elders and deacons. The ballots of the members of the congregation were opened and read, giving some guidance concerning the desires of the congregation in this matter.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

Rev. William Burgma,
Translator