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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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16 October 1864

Holland, Michigan

Elder Labots was elected chairman of the consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church in the absence of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. Several young ladies appeared to make confession of faith including Marie [Mary?] Van Raalte. Some consistory men considered them too young to be admitted but after discussion, they were admitted to the Lord's Table. Communion will be served on the 23rd.

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. 217-218.

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, Henrijetta 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

were challenged and admonished in fitting words to walk worthily of the confession they have made and to conduct themselves properly in the presence of others, especially their peers. The chairman then led in a prayer on their behalf, and they left the meeting.

ARTICLE 6 – A membership statement was asked and granted to Jacobus Brandt to Zeeland.

ARTICLE 7 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Kamper.

Communion will be celebrated on October 23.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of November 14, 1864

Absent: Brothers Broek and Naber.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Brother de Bruin was chosen as chairman.

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

ARTICLE 4 – The chairman officially informed the meeting of the unexpected death of one of the consistory members, the beloved brother deacon, Albert Plugger, who on November 1, 1864, was taken to the Lord. The loss of this worthy brother, who, since the beginning of our Dutch settlement, has been of service to our congregation as deacon, was painfully felt by all, and his empty place has grieved our hearts. However, we know that his death, so sad for us, is for him the entrance into eternal life. The brothers want to submit themselves to God's will, since he is the one who in his own time calls us from the church militant to the church triumphant. It is our hope that the King of the church will fill the place left empty by his departure.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that the building committee investigate whether improvements should be made on the church building by placing a stone wall under the church, and thereby to lift the lowest section higher. The necessary repairs on the roof, to avoid snow from entering, will also take place, and at the next meeting there will be a report concerning how this is to be done and the expenses involved.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to bring the above-mentioned matter to the next congregational meeting.