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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

William Buursma

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29 March 1855

Holland, Michigan

Only Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, elders Apeldoorn and Jonker, and deacons G. W. Wilterdink and Keppel were present at this meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church. Several problems again confronted the Consistory. Van der Lijster urged the canceling of the installation of the elected elders. Van Raalte announced that the Consistory will meet the Monday before the next Classis meeting to give everyone the opportunity to present their objections.

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 130-131.

Holland, March 23, 1855

In the presence of Elder Jonker and Rev. van Raalte, profession of faith is made by Jan Smit of North Holland. He was confirmed as a member of the church in Holland on March 25.

Dated: Holland, march 26, 1855

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting of March 29, 1855

Present were Apeldoorn and Jonker, elders; G. W. Wilterdink and Keppel, deacons; and Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 - ten Brink presents a personal objection against deacon-elect J. van Dijk. He charges that van Dijk is not qualified for this office, since he, accompanied by B. van Lente, has during the last two years taken shingle wood from government land. He brought no witness with him, since both accused individuals acknowledge the truth of the charge. The first named presented as his excuse that the land was worthless, because of the hills and valleys. The last named said that he had done this out of necessity.

Brothers Apeldoorn and Keppel were appointed to investigate the matter and to bring a report at the following meeting.

ARTICLE 2 (sic) – A letter was read from J. Hoogenhout concerning the injustice of the discipline applied to her and her husband, as well as a request for her membership and that of her husband. It was decided to continue to admonish these members if they persist in their attitude.

ARTICLE 3 – A letter was read from Brother van der Luijster urging canceling the installation of the elected elders. He judges that it would be better to have a new election. Rev. van Raalte informs the gathering that he has invited van der Luijster to come to the consistory meeting, particularly because he (van der Luijster) is of the opinion that the consistory has not dealt properly in this matter, since the party should have been called to a meeting.

It was called to van der Luijster's attention that the consistory meetings were held publicly, and that matters of the consistory do go to classis, but do not come to the congregation from classis.

It was decided that the consistory will meet on the Monday before classis, in order to give everyone opportunity to present their objections, since classis is available to all.

ARTICLE 4 – In order to simplify the purchase agreement for the cemetery, it was decided that the title will be entrusted to the oldest elder, as trustee of the congregation. Currently this is Jan Albert Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 5 – The meeting was closed with Apeldoorn.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24, 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Burgema,
Translator*