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Meeting Minutes of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church

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Recommended Citation

Wakker, G.; Buursma, William; and Buursma, Althea, "Meeting Minutes of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church" (1864). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 285.
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24 November 1864

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, a financial report was given after the pastor opened with prayer. The total income for the year was \$3,228.68. This total did not include the salary fund or the poor fund. Elders and deacons were elected. Beeuwkes was chosen to replace Plugger. "The president presented to the congregation the need for a second pastor, a long-felt requirement." The demands upon the pastor cannot be met by one person "even if he is young and healthy." The proposal was passed with 51 votes. The meeting was adjourned to the third Monday in January.

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. 221-222.

Congregational Meeting of November 24, 1864,
Thanksgiving Day

Psalm 122: 3 was sung.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The financial status of the congregation for the past year was reported.

The regular Sunday collections -	\$923.17
Bible distribution for the military -	24.48
Board of education -	21.80
For the Missionary Ship -	287.75
Missionary fund -	74.00
Hijtsema for Brandt -	31.10
Holland Academy -	397.37 = \$1,759.67
Partial pledges for Karsten -	409.71
Receipts for pew rentals from January 1, 1864 -	1,059.30
Total	\$3,228.68

The distributions for the poor in our midst are covered by receipts, and there is approximately \$10.00 in the fund.

If the currently unpaid pew rentals were received, the debts of the church could be paid, and there would be plus-minus \$100.00 in the fund. The monies loaned from the Schenk funds, in the sum of \$330.00 at 7% to be paid in August-November, in the amount of \$18.60 is not included in the above.

ARTICLE 3 – By ballot, the following retiring elders received:

J. Labots -	69 votes
G. Wakker -	67
T. Keppel -	65

All were reelected by a nearly unanimous vote. In the same way, the retiring deacons:

P. Naber -	67 votes
D. te Roller -	60

The balloting for a deacon to replace the late A. Plugger, who had been recommended by the consistory, was between Beeuwkes and Vaupel. Beeuwkes received 26 votes; Vaupel 23, Schelleman 13, van Planken 4, P. de Vries 4, H. te Roller 4, H. Doesburg 3, J. van Putten, 3, J. Smits 3, Binnekant 2, Meengs 2, Jonker 1, Kruif 1, and A. van Rij 1.

Because none of the above received a majority of the votes, a second ballot, between Beeuwkes and Vaupel, was taken. Beeuwkes received 47 votes and Vaupel received 33 votes. Consequently, Beeuwkes was chosen to serve the congregation as deacon.

ARTICLE 4 – The president presented to the congregation the need for a second pastor, a long-felt requirement. He added that this proposal, which had the approval of the consistory, should not be looked upon as a departure from the Rev.'s conviction that a much better and helpful resolution would be to split the congregation into two or more congregations, with each one having its own pastor and its own area of responsibility.

This proposal only deals with additional labors that could take place in our congregation, which now, because of its large size, cannot be adequately served by one minister, even if he is young and healthy.

After the matter was further discussed, and certain objections heard, the proposal was accepted with 51 votes. It was decided to reflect on this issue and then to meet again on the first Monday in January, 1865. An amendment to meet in December for the rental of the pews was not accepted, and at the balloting, the proposal was rejected.

ARTICLE 5 – A proposal to call three ministers at this congregational meeting and not by the consistory was approved by a vote of 39 to 23. Some of the brothers did not understand the previous decision very well, and indicated that it is out of order. It was also said that the matter should have been announced beforehand. The time was getting late. Some had already left the meeting, and it was decided to adjourn until the third Monday in December.

The meeting was closed by Rev. van Raalte, with the singing of Psalm 133.

G. Wakker, clerk