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### Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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25 June 1855

Holland, Michigan

At a consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, various items of business were dealt with. The Van Putten brothers offered to provide 40,000 feet of lumber for the new church building at the cost of \$11.00 per thousand feet. Their offer was accepted. Discussion was held on the matter of casting lots for pews. Abraham Krabshuis closed the meeting with prayer.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. William and Althea Buursma, 2000.

Original in the collection of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, volume II, page 2.

Meeting held on June 25, 1855

Present were Elders Jonker, Labots, Broek, Hekhuis, Krabshuis, Keppel, and Apeldoorn; Deacons Wilterdink, D. te Roller, P. de Vries; and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – A proposal to change the time for the monthly prayer service to 8 o'clock was rejected, because this would make it difficult for members living on the fringes of the congregation.

ARTICLE 3 – Mrs. Beukema requests that she and her husband make profession of faith at their home. A committee consisting of Keppel, Labots, and van Raalte was appointed for this matter.

ARTICLE 4 – At the request of Pfanztiehl, Block CC of the cemetery was reserved for him for \$30.00.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee, mandated to review the treasurer's accounts for the benevolence, informs the gathering that everything was found to be in order. Furthermore, it was decided to review the accounts every six months.

ARTICLE 6 - Brothers van Putten offer to provide 40,000 feet of lumber for the building of the church for \$11.00 per (thousand). This amount they are willing to loan for a three-year period at 7%. The first 25,000 feet must be received and sawed, not affected by rot; after which additional logs will be provided as needed. This offer was unanimously accepted.

ARTICLE 7 – A previous decision was reaffirmed and the drive for the third phase for the church will be postponed until the building has been completed. A new pledge list will then be opened.

ARTICLE 8 – An animated discussion took place concerning the casting of lots for the pews in the church. It was mentioned that prior to this there had never been any objection to this procedure, and that the usual complaint, namely, that money plays a role in this matter, is invalidated by the casting of lots. The lottery for pews has improved order and removed the charge that money plays a role in the matter.

ARTICLE 9 – Finally, a free-wheeling conversation took place concerning lightening rods, vaccination, and fire insurance. It became apparent that there was a wide-ranging difference of opinion re these matters.

ARTICLE 10 – The meeting was closed with prayer by A. Krabshuis.

A. C. van Raalte