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Meeting Minutes of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church

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13 February 1865

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, only 44 members were present. At least 100 members should be present for a meeting to call a minister, it was decided.

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, p. 230.

Congregational Meeting of February 13, 1865

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with the singing of Psalm 25: 4, and prayer by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte, as chairman.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous congregational meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – After some discussion over the legitimacy of a call extended by a small or large number of membership present, it was decided that this meeting is too small in order to extend a call. It was judged better to adjourn. 44 members were present.

ARTICLE 4 – It was proposed and approved that for our congregation, at least a hundred members are required to be present for the election of a pastor, and that a 2/3rds majority will also be a requisite. An amendment to reduce the number from 100 to 80 was rejected.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that members who, for lawful reasons, are not able to be present, may present a written and signed ballot.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that at the following congregational meeting, an hour of prayer shall be set aside before a vote is called for.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to adjourn until February 27 in the afternoon at 1:30.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte
G. Wakker, clerk

Congregational Meeting of February 27, 1865

The meeting was opened with the singing of Psalm 84: 3, and prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte. In harmony with the decision of the previous meeting, an hour was set aside for prayer. Various individuals participated.

ARTICLE 1 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Because there were only 50 to 60 members present, it was not possible to move forward with the election of a pastor, as decided in the previous meeting.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided to begin to work towards the building of the parsonage. A committee of six people was appointed to join the consistory in this assignment to make appropriate plans to complete this work. The committee consists of Hofman, van der Veen, Cappon, Benneken, K. Schaddelee, G. W. Kooijers. The meeting was closed with the singing of Psalm 25: 3 and prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte. G. Wakker, clerk