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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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18 January 1856

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raate presided, Abraham's Krabsluis' excuse for missing the previous meeting due to a cold was not accepted. Several disciplinary cases were discussed. B. Ploeg and Js. Van de Luyster will be presented as nominees to the congregation for elder, one of whom will be elected. The building committee was urged to continue its work. The bell ringer was given a raise of \$5 for the year.

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

Original in the papers of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, vol. II, pp. 18-19.

Regular Meeting Held on January 18, 1856

Present were Elders Hekhuis, Apeldoorn, Wilterdink, Keppel, Labots, and Krabshuis; Deacons Wilterdink, te Roller, and de Vries; as well as Rev. A. C. van Raalte. Absent were Broek, because of illness, and Plugger, due to busyness.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Adriaan de Frel desires to make profession of faith, but, because of an attack of nerves, he was hindered in doing so.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Laarman's matter could not be discussed, because Mrs. Boeve was not present. It was decided, in the future, to make arrangements to pick her up.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes were read and approved. Brother Krabshuis explained his previous absence, because of a cold. However, his excuse is not accepted.

ARTICLE 5 – The conversation with A. de Frel is now continued, and his request is granted, after he had been informed about the grave necessity of knowledge of the faith. He was also encouraged to pay no attention to the critical spirit and to the gossipers, particularly as it concerns the ruling of the congregation. He was encouraged to send such individuals who have objections to the persons with whom they have difficulty. Such gossiping tongues are in violation of God's law and spoil for many the worship experience.

ARTICLE 6 – Mrs. Boeve, having entered the meeting with her husband and Mr. Laarman, declares that she is tired of the controversy with Laarman. She acknowledged that the second purchase of the land should have been completed, and that the wooden staves belonged to Hofman and that the price should be divided half way between Laarman and Boeve. She wanted to inform the meeting that Hofman should, within an appropriate time, taken the staves in question and clean up the area. The consistory gives three months for this. In addition, she acknowledges that she is not in a condition to rightfully regret all of the sins and misery which have flowed forth from this situation. The matter is ended with admonition and prayer.

ARTICLE 7 – Paper nominations from the members of the church for forming a duo for the election of elders were opened. It became apparent that there was such minimal participation that the consistory decided to form the duo itself. After a lengthy discussion, it was deemed advisable to present B. Ploeg and Js. van de Luyster as a duo and allow the congregation to decide, by ballot, if they wished to have both men serve as elders.

ARTICLE 8 – The building committee was urged to continue the work on the church building.

ARTICLE 9 – The brethren Labots and Keppel were mandated to review the books of the deacons.

ARTICLE 10 – The bell ringer asks for a \$5.00 increase in salary for this year and last year. Request granted.

ARTICLE 11 – On behalf of the first contractors for the church, a \$75.00 advance is requested, since they consider themselves unable to purchase the steel for the windows. This request was granted.

ARTICLE 12 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Krabshuis.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Meeting Held on - January, 1856

Present were Elders Labots, Keppel, Apeldoorn, Hekhuis, Wilterdink, and Broek; Deacons de Vries, te Roller, Wilterdink, and Plugger; Preachers H. G. Klein, C. van der Meulen, and A. C. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The memberships of Pieter de Rouzer and Cornelia Glerum were requested for transfer to Zeeland. Approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Arent Smeelink presents his membership papers from Kalamazoo. They are approved. However, there was an inquiry concerning his behavior in dealing with a certain Brother de Schotsen. According to rumors, he is supposed to have conducted himself in a loveless fashion. A committee was appointed, consisting of Brothers Keppel, Apeldoorn, and Hekhuis. This committee is also assigned the task to speak with his wife, since he has many complaints concerning her.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Hekhuis informs the gathering that he has informed Hofman of the decision that he must clean up the staves from Boeve's land within three months. It appears that for the sake of peace he is willing to submit to this decision.

ARTICLE 6 – C. Vorst requests release from the decision to loan money. This was granted to him, because Pastor van Raalte informs the gathering that, by God's goodness, the congregation of Holland was presented the sum of \$1,000.00 by the