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### Meeting Minutes of the Council of Hope College

Abel T. Stewart

Mary Otterness

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29 March 1871

Holland, Michigan

Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte was present at this meeting of the Council of Hope College although Elder L. S. Viele was in the chair. Rev. Seine Bolks reported on his work accomplished as Collecting Agent of the council. Dr. and Mrs. Van Raalte gave thirty acres to the college. Rev. Cornelius Vander Meulen and his wife gave property to the college. At the session on the 30<sup>th</sup>, it was reported that Dr. Isaac Ferris gave a number of books to the theological department. A notation would go into each volume that the book was given to "the Western Theological School..." Considerable time was spent on the financial difficulties of *De Hope*. The meeting concluded 31 March.

Transcription by Mary Otterness, 2004.

*Minutes of the Council of Hope College*, 114-121.

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March  
29,  
1871

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment. Elder L.S. Viele took the chair  
Members present

Rev A. C. Van Raalte, Philip Phelps Jr, C. E Crispell, S Bolks, Jacob Van Der  
Meulen, J. W. Beardslee, E. C. Oggel, C. Van Der Veen, A. Krickhard.  
Elders L. S. Viele, B Ledebouer, K. Brower, H. O. Yntema.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Philip Phelps. C. Van Der Meulen  
Veen was elected Secretary pro Tem in the place of A. T. Stewart who was  
necessarily absent.

On motion J. Van Herder was introduced to the Council to make some  
statements in connection with the last will & testament of Maria K De Pree.  
After hearing him it was resolved that the matter be referred to the Committee  
on examination of Documents with instructions to obtain the property thus  
willed.

Minutes of previous meeting of Council and of intervening meetings of Ex.  
Com were read.

There were also read letters from Rev Philip Pelts Chairman of Synods Com.  
& a copy of the Secretarys reply to letter first.

Rev S. Bolks gave a general account of his work accomplished as General  
Collecting Agent of the Council.

Res<sup>d</sup> that his report be referred to a Committee consisting of Elder B  
Ledebouer. Rev S Bolks, E C Oggel & C Van Der Veen.

The Com. on examination of Titles. Doenments[?] be reported. Their report  
was accepted & Com Continued, See Paper A and is as follows That in  
accordance with the resolution of Council they have employed the services of  
Wm W.B. Williams of Allegan. In connection with him as Counsel, Your  
Committee have given as much time as possible to a stud[?] exam

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ination & are prepared to submit herewith a full report on part of the property  
as follows.

1 A note & mortgage of Heida Veinhuis willed to Council of Hope College  
for \$1825 which was found to be correct.

2 A note & Mortgage from C. V. Herwynam to Council for \$10,000. This  
was found correct (but unstamped) The suggestion however is that if Mr. C.  
V. Herwynen would give us a deed of the property in fee simple & the  
Council should return him a life lease on it the interests on it would be more  
certainly secured. Your Com. recommend that they be authorized to obtain  
such an instrument if possible. If not to perfect the mortgage by getting it  
properly stamped.

3 A Warranty Deed from C. Van Der Meulen & wife of the N.W ¼ N.E ¼  
Sect 30. 6 N. 14 The Deed is correct but lacking abstract the title was not  
examined.

Van Raalte 4 A Warranty Deed from Doctor Van Raalte & wife for the N 30 acres in S E  
Deeds of fe[?] ¼ of Sect 30. 5th 15 West. The Deed & Title are correct. Also for S 30  
30 acres. Acres in Same Condition. The validity of title to third parties in these

“ “ 30 acres is perfectly good. A non Compliance with the conditions contained in the Deed in no way vitiating title once posted.  
 All suspicion upon this matter can be allaged[sic] however by an additional Quit Claim Deed of Doctor Van Raalte explaining his intention concerning it and your Com recommend that such an instrument be added.  
 5 A Warranty Deed of J. Brayton & wife for that part of the 20 acres of the S. E. fe[?] ¼ of Sect 30 T 5. Nth[?] 15 W. lying 9[?] from &

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 29, 1871

outside of a new board fence running from the S line of said S. 30 to Black Lake. Said board fence is 5 chains & 54 links E from the ¼ line at the S end thereof & runs nearly north. This description is too indifferent definite & the premises should be surveyed & a conveyance should be made to conect[sic] description in accordance with said survey. Your Com recommend that they be authorized to obtain from Mr. Brayton a new & Correct Deed & if necessary to employ Counsel to force him to give it.  
 6 The point Superior property. This being a very large property & the description of titles is very long & somewhat intricate Your Com. have not been able to perfect their investigations concerning it. In regard to this matter they beg leave to report progress.  
 Your Com have been at the following exp.  
 Oct Rev A. T. Stewart & C Van Der Veen at Allegan 2.00  
 March 14 Rev C. Van Der Veen expense to & from Allegan 3.50  
 March 28 Rev C. Van Der Veen at Allegan 1.75 = \$7. 25  
 The above expenses were ordered paid and the suggestions were adopted.  
 Res<sup>d</sup> that a vote of thanks be given to Rev John S Scott for currant[sic] cuttings for the Js Suydam farm  
 Res<sup>d</sup> that a vote of thanks be passed to Charles Van Wyck for bound volumes of the Christian Intelligences  
 Res<sup>d</sup> that a vote of thanks be passed to Samuel B Schieffelin for books to the Library & Theological Students.  
 Rev S. Bolks was excused for the evening session. Closed with prayer C. E. Crispell Adjourned till 7 ½ oclock

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7 ½ P. M.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder K Brower. Doctor Phelps moved that the clause added under IIA. 4 as follows He shall have prerogatives of a Theological Professor be reconsidered The motion was carried. -----[?] moved that it be stricken out. Motion carried.  
 -----[?] moved to reconsider the clause in No 5 under Theological Faculty. After 30 days the first period beginning with “but no student” & ending with “thirty days” carried.  
 On motion of Doctor Phelps that part was stricken out.  
 On motion of Doctor Phelps the following Amendment under Academic Dept was made “The seinor[sic] Academic Dept Professor shall be President of that Faculty on motion of Doctor Phelps An Amendment under Preparatory Dept

was made as follows "The Rector of the Grammar school shall be President of that Faculty. The meeting was closed with prayer by J.W. Beardslee. Adjourned until 9 A M to morrow morning.

30.

Thursday March 30, 1871

The meeting was opened with prayer by Doctor Phelps. The minutes of the previous day were read & approved Philip Phelps. A. C. Van Raalte & L. S. Viele were appointed a Com. to draw up a statement of our financial wants for the Coming year & present it to the Council for action.

On motion Council took up the business of the Report on Goot[?].

Moved that we take up that part of the Report which treats of the Duties & Prerogatives of the President II A 4 Carried.

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March

30. 1871

Res<sup>d</sup> that a Com. be appointed to define these points & report at the opening of the afternoon session. Rev A. Thompson Jas Demarest Jr & Jacob Van Der Meulen were appointed said Com.

Res<sup>d</sup> that a Com be appointed to define the relations & duties of the different faculties & Officers of the Institution in the Academical & Grammar school Departments. Dr Phelps, Dr Crispell & J. W. Beardslee were appointed said Com Resd that the Proposition of Mr. Taylor in reference to a normal Dept as presented by Dr Ledebor be referred to a Com consisting of Rev C. Van Der Veen Philip Phelps & B Ledebor.

The lists of Debts to De Hope & Endowment Interest were received from Mr. C. Doesberg & on motion were referred to the Com. on the Rept of Rev S. Bolks.

Closed with prayer by Rev Jas Demarest Adjourned till 2 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 2. PM by Elder S. L. Viele. It was opened with prayer Rev N. V. Gulick.

The report on De Hope was made the special order for tomorrow morning at 9 oclock. The Com on the Duties & Prerogatives reported. report was accepted & referred back to the Com.

Letters were read by Prof Crispell from Doctor Isaac Ferris giving a number of books to the Theological Dept upon which the following action was taken Res<sup>d</sup> that the thanks of this body be presented to Rev I. Ferris D. D. L.L.D. for his donation of books to the Theological Dept of Hope College & that the same be placed in the College Library.

Res<sup>d</sup> that the books be marked

"To the Western Theological School of

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the Reformed Church in America in Hope College by the Rev Isaac Ferris D.D, L.L.D,

Adjourned till 9. A M Tomorrow morning with prayer by A. Thompson.

March

31.

Friday March 31. 1871. 9 A.M.

Council was opened with prayer N. D. Gulick. The minutes were read

1871 amended & approved. The report of the Com on De Hope was read, accepted & approved adopted, and is as follows

Report	The Bills payable of		
on	Old Debt Note to Laflen[?] & Co.	\$185.00	
De Hope	Act of N. M. Hinsdill	200.	
	Act of wages at office	179.50	
	Salary of Editor	650.	
	“ “ C Doesberg	250.	
	New Debt Salary of Editor	250	
	A/c of wages to date	99.	
	“ “ Bruding[?] paper	15.50	
	Cash borrowed on note	300.	
	Cash due to H. Kepple.	100.	
	Bills receivable	<u>100</u>	
	Due on	2229.00	
	Subscription	3060.43	
	Sess[?] Amt Collected	<u>200.</u>	
		2860 43	
	due[?] on advertisements	<u>760.46</u>	<u>13620.89</u>
	50 per cent deducted		1810.45

The necessity of paying these amounts is exceedingly by urgent & your Com recommend that the Editor elect be associated with the Agent Rev S Bolks and they be instructed to collect the outstanding dues immediately & if it be necessary that the issue of De Hope be postponed after the end of this volume, but for a time not to exceed one month. It is the Conviction of your Com. that there should be annually appointed by the Council a standing Com of three on De Hope to whom all the

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business of the paper be referred through whom the Editor shall report to the Council & who shall be the auditing Com to settle his accounts.

\$ That this Com. be instructed to obtain a loan of \$2000. for five years & give a Security mortgage on lots in College addition.

2000 Your Com further recommend that the papers of those who do not pay their Past dues be discontinued.

Mortgage That if the subscription price be not paid

the price of De Hope be increased to \$2.50 at the expiration of six months.

The report on relations of Faculties was read, accepted & adopted and will appear in the completed

The report on duties & prerogatives of the Pres was read, accepted & adopted and will appear in the completed report on organization The Com on the Finances of De Hope was appointed as follows B. Ledeboer, H Brower & H. O Yntema. The above named persons were appointed to examine the accounts of Rev S Bolks agent. Rev S Bolks was excused from further attendance. Adjourned with prayer by C. E Crispell until 2 P.M

Council was opened with prayer at 2 P.M by B. Ledeboer.

Res<sup>d</sup> that Doctor Phelps & C. Van Der Veen be a com to get the amended report on organization printed & copies distributed for use to the members of Gen. Synod & Council.

Res that the travelling[sic] expenses of members be allowed as per bills.

The Com on accounts of Rev S Bolks reported Their report was read, accepted & adopted & is as follows

Reed[?]	\$111.26 for De Hope
	28. for Endowment interest

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and 491.28 collection for Hope College after deducting 47.56 for expenses, and 50. paid to Mr. Parsons, being a total of six hundred and thirty dollars & 5 Cents for which sum the Com has given Mr. Bolks a receipt.

Res that the thanks of Council be presented to Rev S Bolks for his earnest & successful efforts labors as collecting agent.

The following resolutions were submitted by Rev James Demarest Jr & adopted as part of the report on organization. see completed report.

Com on financial wants reported in part which report was accepted & referred to Ex. Com to complete.

Adjourned till 3<sup>d</sup> Tuesday in May at 8. P.M. Closed with prayer by Rev C. Van Der Veen.

Abel. T. Stewart. Secretary.