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

A. C. Van Raalte

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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15 February 1856

Holland, Michigan

Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided at the meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Ploeg was welcomed as the new member of the consistory. The contract was signed for the new furnace at a cost of \$250.00. A collection for the needy and orphans would be taken next Sunday. There will be a yearly collection for the Board of Education in June.

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 21-22a.

that his convictions are ungrounded and that he has slandered the ministry behind their backs, has been disloyal concerning those who needed to be rebuked, and that he has been overly sensitive. The gathering comes to the conclusion that, since the matter has been dragging on for such a long time, he is not suitable for service as elder. As a result, his resignation can be unanimously accepted, although his error in this schismatic activity must be brought to his attention, even though we do not deny him the right of conscience if he wishes to separate himself. He will stand or fall in this in the presence of his God. It was decided to inform the congregation on the day of the election of this letter and the consistory's response.

ARTICLE 10 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Klein.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Meeting Held on February 15, 1856

Present were Elders Broek, Ploeg, Keppel; Deacons Plugger, te Roller, Wilterdink; and Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Ploeg was welcomed to his first session in the consistory. He has been chosen by a majority of votes and installed by the pastor in his office.

ARTICLE 4 – A request from the first contractor for an additional \$30.00 for the purchase of steel for the windows was approved.

ARTICLE 5 – The consistory was informed that a contract has been signed for a furnace for the warming of the church in the sum of \$250.00.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to take a collection for the needy widows and orphans of preachers next Sunday, and thereafter for the Board of Education. From now on, there will be a yearly collection on the first Sunday in June for the Board of Education.

ARTICLE 7 – Brother Keppel reports on the matter between A. Smeding and de Schotsen. He reports that his rights in connection with the purchase of the church building cannot be denied. Smeding, however, has not handled this correctly, which has led to a rebuke from the consistory of the Scottish congregation, requiring his confession. It is for this reason that Smeding desires to have his membership returned, so

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this is granted, with an admonition.

ARTICLE 8 – The Brothers Labots and Keppel report that they have found the benevolence books to be in order.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Ploeg.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Regular Consistory Meeting Held February 26, 1856

Present were Elders Ploeg, Keppel, Wilterdink, Apeldoorn, Broek; Deacons Plugger, te Roller, de Vries, Wilterdink; and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – A letter from Mr. Williamson, secretary of the Collegiate Church of New York, containing the news of a love gift of \$1,000.00 for the completion of the church in the village of Holland, was read. The clerk was instructed, in the name of the consistory, to express our thanks and to ask for the monies in small amounts in New York paper currency.

ARTICLE 4 – There was a discussion over the wonderful attitude characterizing the Reformed Church and the desire of the Holland-American church to maintain these characteristics.

ARTICLE 5 – There was a discussion concerning the value of baptism administered by heretics, and in how far the baptism of the Hervormde Kerk (Dutch Reformed State Church of the Netherlands) can be acknowledged, since so many in that fellowship have denigrated Christ to an ordinary creature and have denied the personal existence of the Holy Spirit. It was pointed out that these persons still continue to use the traditional wording in the institution of baptism, and that the power of baptism does not depend on the personal interpretation of the one administering it. If baptism is administered against the true formulation in the Dutch Reformed Church, it is done so illegally, and is in opposition to the teaching of the church. The consistory rejects heretics, but to declare an entire ecclesiastical body as heretical is only in God's domain.