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

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8 April 1856

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, Deacon te Roller was charged to get the monies of the Collegiate Church exchanged in Chicago. Mrs. Boeve was now in a humble mood and permitted to make a public confession. Three consistory members were charged with arranging the digging of the basement of the new church.

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, pp.25-26.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Elder Apeldoorn reports that upon further inquiry in the matter of Mrs. Boeve (see Article 2 on page 23) on the occasion of a birthday of one of her children, a group of young people had been invited and that they had stayed until the morning. Hard liquor was distributed, and one of the young people became drunk. The young people in question had acknowledged this and were humbled by it, but Mrs. Boeve excused herself and would not accept admonition and became very bitter. After extensive discussion about the nature of this offense and the aggravating and extenuating circumstances, it is finally decided, with a majority vote, to once more admonish her and, if she remains obstinate, to inform the congregation of her dangerous attitude, asking them to work with her and to pray for her, beseeching the Lord to humble her so that she need not be excommunicated from the church. Brothers Wilterdink and Keppel were assigned to this task.

ARTICLE 4 – It was decided, in the case of Brother Plaggemans, not to continue with withholding communion, if he is prepared publicly to confess his sin and to humble himself. Committee: Broek and Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 5 – Delegates to classis, in addition to the pastor, are Brothers Keppel and Ploeg. The other brethren promised to be present, circumstances permitting. The meeting is closed with prayer by Elder Broek.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Meeting of April 8, 1856

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

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – Pieter van Leeuwen's membership, after discussion concerning his agreement with the Reformed faith, was accepted.

ARTICLE 3 – Request for transfer of N. Jansen, Jelte Bijl, and wife, as well as that of Widow Boone, was approved.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership received for Willem Notting and wife.

ARTICLE 5 – With a unanimous approval, the \$1,000.00 which has been received was given to Deacon te Roller for exchange in Chicago.

ARTICLE 6 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 7 – Mrs. Boeve was found to be in a humble mood, and it was decided that on the following Lord's Day, she will be permitted to make a public confession.

ARTICLE 8 – It is reported that Adriane Slotter continues to be obstinate in rejecting paternal discipline and admonition. It was decided to continue consistorial admonition.

ARTICLE 9 – Brothers Labots, te Roller, and Hekhuis were appointed as a committee for arranging for the digging of a basement under the church.

ARTICLE 10 – The meeting was closed with prayer.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 29, 1856

Present were Elders Broek, Ploeg, Wilterdink, Keppel, Apeldoorn; Deacon te Roller; as well as Rev. van Raalte.

Absent were Brother Hekhuis, due to illness, and Brother Ploeg, because of busyness.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – After discussion concerning his agreement with the Canons of Dort, the membership of Eise J. Broekema was received.

ARTICLE 2 – The following letter from J. Hogenhorst and J. Piljzier to Rev. van Raalte and the consistory was received. The letter asserts that "it seems obvious that Rev. A. C. van Raalte and Rev. van der Meulen, up to this point, show no desire to defend, but rather allow individuals to remain in their 'devastation.' The consistory also seems to be of this mind, since the discipline that they have applied to us has not been acknowledged as a sinful act, because otherwise they would a long time ago have cancelled it. We are weary of the situation, and the admonition we have given to you to make a just judgment in harmony with truth seems to have been in vain. Our request now to you is to give us a copy of the minutes in which you make the accusation against us, according to the writings of A. Krabshuis. In these writings, everything has painstakingly been written down. We expect to receive these minutes by next Monday evening, not later, so that we can continue with our business." Signed: J. Hogenhorst and J. Piljzier