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

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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13 October 1865

Holland, Michigan

Elder Kamper was chosen chairman of the consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was not present. The clerk, Gerrit Wakker, reported that the censure was not read in church last Sunday upon instruction of the committee that was dealing with this person. The man admitted his guilt and hoped to improve his behavior. The consistory wished to ascertain the correct number of members and would request the pastor to be present at the next meeting.

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. 245-247.

being a member of the committee. The reason for his request is that his proposal not to invoke discipline had been rejected, and this had so influenced his attitude and conviction that it made him incompetent to do the work assigned to the committee. Thereupon, Wilterdink was assigned to take his place alongside of Keppel.

The clerk was mandated to prepare by next Sunday a letter which will be read in the church as follows: "A member of the congregation has been placed under censure, on the ground of drunkenness, playing billiards, and frequenting saloons.

ARTICLE 5 – Membership received for H. van Eijk and H. van Eijk, nee Kamps, from Zeeland, dated September 27, 1865.

ARTICLR 6 – It was decided that next Sunday the congregation will be informed of the need for the education of our young people at the Holland Academy involves more contributions from our church, and, therefore, voluntary contributions are requested and should be brought to Wakker.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to meet again on October 13.

The meeting was closed by Brother Wilterdink.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of October 13, 1865

Absent: Brothers Labots, and all of the deacons, except Geerlings and Beeuwkes.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Kamper was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – The clerk reports that the reason why the censure, noted in the last minutes, was not read last Sunday. The reason is that the appointed committee had informed him that he should not do so.

This committee, which was mandated to inform B. Taeke of his censure, reported that they had gone to the home of B. Taeke, but that they could not find him there. They spoke with his wife about the situation of her husband, and the consequences flowing from his disorderly conduct.

The wife expressed her deep concern, in case her husband should be disciplined, and told of the struggle and temptations which he suffered from. After receiving a promise of secrecy, she then revealed matters concerning her husband which the committee, because of the promise made to her, could not now report. However, both of them had strongly urged that the decision of the consistory should not be implemented. They report that they also later came to the home of the man, and had spoken with him. He acknowledged his abuse of strong drink, although he did say that people made the situation worse than it actually was. He admitted his guilt, and hoped to improve.

When the committee suggested that such easy expressions of remorse give little reason for serious acceptance, he declared that he did not dare to express himself in any other way, because he had often promised and yet consistently was overwhelmed by temptaton, which he could not resist, but, now, he hoped to leave his sinful past.

Furthermore, the committee is of the opinion that censure will do more harm than good, and this is why they had conducted themselves in this fashion. They did not place him under censure, but they had said that unless he changed his ways, it would, indeed, come to pass.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Keppel reports that he has had a meeting with member Schuur, and had admonished him concerning his abuse of strong drink. He promised that he would conduct himself in a better fashion.

ARTICLE 6 – Membership received for D. Kamperman and wife, from Zeeland, dated September 27, 1865.

ARTICLE 7 – Keppel and Kamper were appointed to see to it that the membership book will be present at the next consistory meeting, so that the correct number of members can be noted, if it is consistent with the yearly report. At the same time, they were assigned to request the pastor to attend the consistory meetings again.

ARTICLE 8 – Because the request for monies announced, in connection with the instruction of the youth, had not achieved its goal in bringing these monies to Wakker, it was decided now

to take a collection in church Sunday over eight days.

ARTICLE 9 – As delegates to the coming special session of classis on October 25, the same delegates were appointed as those for the previous classis, namely, Keppel and Wakker, with Broek and Kamper as alternates.

The meeting was closed by Brother Kamper.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of November 20, 1865

Absent: Brother Kamper.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Vork.

ARTICLE 2 – De Bruin was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee, via Keppel, reports that they had asked the pastor concerning the membership book and requested him, from now on, to attend the consistory meetings. They had been unable to come to a conclusion, and left the meeting with their task incomplete.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Keppel reports that the wife of J. Hogesteger, recently married and now living here, desires to become a member of the congregation. However, a statement of membership from the Christian Secessionist congregation in the Netherlands had not been taken along, and she was somewhat hesitant to repeat her profession of faith. In her time here in America, she has not lived in any place where it was possible to join a Dutch congregation.

It was decided to place this matter in the hands of a committee, consisting of de Bruin and Labots. They have been given power to act, as circumstances require.

ARTICLE 6 – A gift for the poor was received by a transfer of a note owed by P. Winters to the widow H. Knol, in the sum of \$61.24. When the interest is included at 7%, \$34.24 is added, for a total of \$95.48. The gift comes with the stipulation that \$10.00 must be given to E. Havegate and \$2.00 to Mrs. Meulenbelt. This matter was placed in the hands of the deacons.

ARTICLE 7 – Statements of membership were requested and granted to R. Schelleman and wife, and Agata Wagenaar, nee Schelleman and Elisa Theibout, nee van den Berg.