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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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27 May 1856

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, it was decided to take an offering for the New Brunswick Seminary for the purpose of furnishings. [Hertzog Hall was constructed this year.] The pastor would travel to Utica, New York, to attend the meeting of the General Synod. Rev. John Van Vleck, principal of the Holland Academy, would be invited to preach in his absence but in the Dutch language.

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, p. 29.

ARTICLE 7 – The meeting was concluded with prayer by G. J. Hekhuis.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Meeting Held on May 27, 1856

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Schaap considers himself unjustly treated in the matter of the purchase of a tax title of his land to Brother Kerkhof. The consistory does not feel itself authorized to enter into the rights and wrongs of this matter. However, the judgment is made that the brother should follow the golden rule. Keppel and Wilterdink were delegated to inform him of this decision.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – The professors of New Brunswick request a small gift to help furnish the rooms for the building recently constructed. This will make the cost for the students less. It was decided to take an offering.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to discontinue catechism instruction during the pastor's trip to the synodical meeting in Utica. Rev. van Vleck was invited to preach here in the Dutch language.

ARTICLE 6 – In connection with Hoogerhorst and wife, it was decided once again, as soon as possible, to do all that can be done to soften the attitudes of the parties concerned.

ARTICLE 7 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Wilterdink.

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk