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

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3 April 1866

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, the committee of Elders Keppel and te Roller presented the blueprint of the proposed church for the county line. Total costs would come to \$3,000. The plans were drawn by W. Minderhout. It was decided that the deacons will make the rounds to ask for pledges. The pastor informed the consistory that he and his wife planned to go to the Netherlands for his wife's health sake. He received the approval of the consistory.

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. 262 and 263a.

Consistory Meeting of March 27, 1866

Absent: Brother Vork and the pastor.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened by Brother de Bruin.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Keppel was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – Present at the meeting were Griet Alberta Mina Laarman, Anna Grootenhuis, Everdina Cornelia Everhart, Trijntje van der Heuvel, Gerrit Hekhuis, Johanna Hekhuis; all of whom desired to be admitted to membership by way of profession of faith. All were accepted, except for Everdina Everhart and Anna Grootenhuis, since these two were judged to have insufficient knowledge to examine them. Taking into consideration their youthful age, they were advised to wait for some time.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to meet again in eight days.  
The meeting was closed by Brother Wilterdink.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 3, 1866

Absent: Brothers de Bruin and Broek.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee of Keppel and te Roller presents the blueprint and plans for the church on the county line made by Mr. W. Minderhout, with an estimate, according to the plan of \$2,200.00, not including pews, etc. The estimate for completing the church entirely is posted at \$3,000.00. It was decided that the deacons will make the rounds of the families with a pledge list next week, and that next Sunday the results will be made public.

ARTICLE 4 – Brothers Geerlings and te Roller were assigned to assist the janitor in the cooling of the church and in helping to provide seating for strangers.

ARTICLE 5 – The pastor informs the meeting that it is his intention, the Lord willing, to go to the Netherlands for enhancement of his, but even more, his wife's health. At the same time, he will attend the Christian Secessionist Synod, the Evangelical Alliance and the general Mission Conference and will seek to advance the cause of emigration. He requests the approbation of the consistory. Rev. requests Wakker during his absence to

teach the catechism classes. The consistory acquiesced in this request.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to meet again on April 11.  
The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Wilterdink.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 11, 1866

Absent: Brothers de Bruin, Oonk, and te Roller.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened by Brother Kamper, due to the absence of the pastor.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Kamper was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – Present at the meeting were Hendrika Broek, Jan Broek, and Janna Broek, all desiring to be admitted to the Lord's table. In the meantime, the pastor entered the meeting. All three above-mentioned persons were accepted.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership received for Aaltje W. Spanjer from the Secessionist congregation of Grand Rapids, dated January 20, 1866. Membership received for Kornelis Douwerd Scherphoren from Sauwerd (Netherlands).

ARTICLE 5 – Catharina van der Veere entered the meeting, requesting permission to come to the table of the Lord. Accepted.

ARTICLE 6 – A female committee, consisting of Mrs. Pauls and Mrs. Slink, appeared in the meeting, requesting carpet runners in the halls of the church. If this is granted, they will, as a committee, see to it that there is a new carpet in the pulpit area. It is judged that this request should be approved.

ARTICLE 7 – Since the committee will soon be leaving, in order to meet with van Dijk, Brother Keppel is appointed to take the place of the minister.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided that those who attend theaters may not be allowed to come to communion, and, because Vlietstra apparently is doing so, a committee was appointed to investigate and to deal according to circumstances. The committee consists of Labots and Wakker.