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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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29 July 1856

Holland, Michigan

At a consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and also served as clerk, some pastoral problems were aired concerning church members. Since J. van Dijk and his wife have had domestic problems and separated, both of them are declared ineligible to take communion.

In Dutch; translated 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. 31.

Meeting Held on July 29, 1856

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – The membership of Maria Rallenwaart from Grand Haven was received.

ARTICLE 4 - The request for transfer to Zeeland made by Dirk Pouel^{a?} was approved.

ARTICLE 5 – Rev. van Raalte reported concerning the most recent synod.

ARTICLE 6 – The assembly was informed that the domestic controversy between J. van Dijk and his wife, a matter which for a long time has been dealt with in secret, has now become public, since his wife has left him. It was decided that, although his wife's conduct has made her guilty, both, because of multiple transgressions, have for such a long time lived in disharmony, and they must be barred from communion. Hekhuis, Apeldoorn, and Labots were assigned to inform them.

ARTICLE 7 – Brother Labots informs the meeting of the wholehearted reconciliation, which has occurred between Schaap and Kerkhof,

ARTICLE 8 – Rev. van Raalte was delegated to go to Brother Reusink, who has objections to certain decisions of the consistory.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting was closed by Brother Ploeg.

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk

Meeting held on August 1, 1856

Present were Elders Ploeg, Labots, Broek, Hekhuis, Wilterdink; Deacons Wilterdink, te Roller; as well as Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer.

ARTICLE 2 – A letter from the consistory of Zeeland, containing objections against C. Doesburg, was read. The reply is: We have requested member Doesburg to refrain from coming to the table of the Lord, and referred him to you as the offended party, to bring satisfaction. We trust in your wisdom which you will receive from above and so inform Brother Doesburg.

ARTICLE 3 – Meeting closed by Brother Ploeg. A. C. van Raalte, Clerk