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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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William Buursma

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Meeting Held August 13, 1856

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Elders Ploeg and Labots, with Broek and Keppel serving as alternates, were appointed as delegates to the special classical session.

ARTICLE 4 – A discussion took place concerning the necessity of encouraging the congregation to more seriously utilize family worship in a fruitful fashion, and to study our creedal confessions.

ARTICLE 5 – A fraternal discussion took place concerning the renting of the church and facilities. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Apeldoorn.

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk

Meeting Held on August 26, 1856

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – A discussion took place concerning pew rental or casting of lots. Both differing viewpoints and attitudes were publicly explicated. It was stated that not everyone will be able to get his way in this matter, and that we need toleration vis-à-vis one another.

ARTICLE 4 – The following memberships were received and accepted: G. Wakker, and his wife, Catrina Bak, with the following children: Willem, Steffe, Harig, Gerrit, Jannetje, Guurtje, Neeltje; also Antje de Vries, nee Visser, and her daughter, Etje de Vries; W. Baas, and his wife, Grietje de Vries, and children, Antje and Willem; all from Zaandam, North Holland.

13 August 1856

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and also served as clerk, the major item of discussion was the “necessity of encouraging the congregation to more seriously utilize family worship in a fruitful fashion, and to study our creedal confessions.”

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 32.