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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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26 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, more discussion was held about the rental of pews, several new members were received, and the pastor reported that his upcoming trip to Pella, Iowa, would take some time because of its "weighty significance." Catchism classes were assigned to Ploeg who would receive a stipend for that work and the elders were to arrange for pulpit supply. [During this trip to Pella, he may have organized members of Scholte's church into the First Reformed Church of Pella.]

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. 32 and 33.

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, Stefje, 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.

ARTICLE 5 – Rev. van Raalte points out that his mission to Pella is of such weighty significance that he will not be able to complete it in a few days. The consistory agrees with this. It was decided to assign the catechism classes to Brother Ploeg and to remunerate him for his time. The brethren were requested to invite preachers to conduct the services (in the absence of Van Raalte).

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that to advance good order and edification, two elders or deacons will be seated in the rear of the church.

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

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk

Meeting of October 6, 1856

Present were Elders Ploeg, Labots, Keppel, Apeldoorn, Hekhuis; Deacons Plugger, 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 – It was decided to authorize Brothers te Roller and Keppel to purchase lamps for the church.

ARTICLE 3 – The assembly was informed of a meeting held with the young people, warning them about a so-called juggler, whose performance they had attended.

ARTICLE 4 – Brother van de Luyster requests return of the \$38.00 which he had advanced. It was decided that this cannot take place until the pews have been rented.

ARTICLE 5 – Rev. van Raalte points out the negative consequences of not attending district school meetings, since then matters will be decided by non-Christians.

ARTICLE 6 – Rev. van Raalte informs the meeting that he is experiencing difficulties because he is not receiving regular payment of his salary. The group is made aware of the fact that this year the total is less than \$150.00. It was decided to schedule a (congregational) meeting.

ARTICLE 7 – A discussion follows concerning the procedure for renting out of the pews.

ARTICLE 8 – Delegates to classis were appointed; namely, Labots, Hekhuis, with Wilterdink and Apeldoorn as alternates.