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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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Recommended Citation

Wakker, G.; Buursma, William; and Buursma, Althea, "Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1865). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 346.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/346

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26 December 1865

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was not present, the meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Keppel. Routine matters were dealt with.

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. 252a and 252b.

Consistory Meeting of December 26, 1865

Absent: Labots, Wilterdink, and Naber.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Keppel.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the previous meeting were read, as well as those of the congregational meeting. Both were approved.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee, appointed at the previous meeting, reported that they had visited with Pessink and had found him in a spirit of such independence that he was disinclined to associate with any church institution. In spite of this, he considered himself authorized to celebrate communion wherever it occurred. He called denominational ties to be a sort of sectarianism, etc. The daughter agreed with his opinions, although the committee had spoken very little with her.

The committee has not yet been able to speak with Rademaker, and, consequently, could make no report concerning this.

ARTICLE 4 – The committee for B. Taeke reports, via Keppel, that the spouse is not in a better spirit than previously. Taeke himself had tried to find excuses about his situation, but, in the judgment of the committee, things are worse rather than better at the moment.

ARTICLE 5 – Membership transfer received for Janneke Booijenga, nee Versluis, from Kalamazoo, dated December 19, 1865. Membership received for Geertje Luidens, nee van Aarendonk; and also a testimonial concerning good behavior of her husband, Jacob Luidens, dated October 24, 1864, from Noordeloos.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided that from now on consistory meetings will be held in the mornings at 8:00 o'clock.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to review the financial books next Tuesday, January 2, at 7 P.M. at the home of Geerlings.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided to rent the pews up to the 6th row from the back of the church.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided that the building committee will provide for the necessary stones for the foundation of the church.

ARTICLE 10 – A committee was appointed, consisting of de Bruin, Keppel, Beeuwkes, and te Roller, to bring the constitution of the congregation in harmony with the current law of the State.

Page 252b

ARTICLE 11 – It was decided that, in the rental of the pews, the first purchaser of number #1 will be given the freedom to take the following places for the same price.

ARTICLE 12 – The meeting was closed by Brother de Bruin.

G. Wakker, clerk