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

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Althea Buursma

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6 October 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, Van Raalte pointed out the necessity of attending district school meetings; if not, "...matters will be decided by non-Christians." VR also mentioned that he was experiencing difficulties because he was not receiving regular salary payments. He also made a brief report on his trip to Pella but did not give any details.

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.33-34.

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.

ARTICLE 9 – The membership papers of Trijntje Kwikkel and Gerrit Ijskis were received and accepted from Zaandam, the Netherlands.

ARTICLE 10 – A brief report was made concerning the trip to Pella.

ARTICLE 11 – The collection for the classical evangelism fund was \$39.75.

ARTICLE 12 – The collection for the Kampen Seminary was \$38.00.

ARTICLE 13 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Hekhuis.

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk

Meeting of October 21, 1856

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – A membership statement for Gerrit Bax from De Kluijndert, the Netherlands, was received.

ARTICLE 3 – The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 4 – Mr. K. de Koning desires to have his child baptized. However, ignorance and negligence make it necessary for us to offer instruction to him; an offer he accepts.

ARTICLE 5 – The stoves in the old church will be sold by the deacons, after informing those interested.

ARTICLE 6 – Since the congregation in Holland has drawn the classical lot for division of land, it was decided to handle the business eight days after today's date; namely, Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

ARTICLE 7 - \$29.39 was collected for the widow fund.

ARTICLE 8 – Mrs. Meulenbelt, who for a long time has been under the suspicion of drunkenness, has now openly fallen into this sin. She will be informed that she must make confession of her offense publicly; otherwise, she will be publicly censured.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Ploeg.

A. C. van Raalte, Clerk