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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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13 February 1866

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, several new members were received such as Catharina Cappon, Cornelis Gardenier, Arend and Jan Visscher. A committee was appointed to meet with some people who were absent from the Lord' Supper. The absentees included Mr. and Mrs. H. van der Haar and Mr. and Mrs. P. Pfanstiehl, well-known names in the Holland community. "Jacobus Schrader entered the meeting, acknowledging that for some time he has been separated from his wife, but, having found nothing better, he returned to her." It was reported that some members objected that consistory allowed the Methodists to use the church building for [revival] meeting which Elder Clapper [spelled Klipper in the minutes] was leading.

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. 255-256.

Consistory Meeting of February 13, 1866

All of the members were present.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte, as chairman.

Present at the meeting were Christiaan L. Streng, Marinus de Boer, and Jannetje de Boer, nee Goedgeluk, Catharina Capon, nee de Boer, Cornelis Gardenier, Pieter Schiperus, Pieter Dogger, Herman Borgers, Ruth Brouwer, Arend Visscher, Jan Visscher, Rommarienes Drost; all of whom desire to be admitted to the congregation by profession of faith. All were received, after their profession. ✓

ARTICLE 2 – A. ten Brink entered the meeting, reporting his concern that not all children of baptized parents are being baptized. In his judgment, this ought to be taking place. It was decided to put this item on the table for later consideration.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee for Schrader, Schaddelee, and Mrs. Boezel report on their visit. Not much has been accomplished, and these friends appear to still be hesitating, each in his or her own way.

ARTICLE 4 – Because some previous members and some who have not been members have participated at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, a committee was appointed to visit them. For Schrader, Schaddelee, L. Sprietsma, the committee is the pastor, Kamper, and de Bruin. For H. van de Haar and wife, P. Pfanstiehl and wife, and K. Mulder, the committee is Wakker and Labots. They are given power to act.

Because J. van Dijk participated in communion before censure had been lifted, the matter of this member was placed in the hands of the first-mentioned committee. A testimonial of membership for Bernardus Wentink, from the Reformed (State) Church of the Netherlands, was received.

ARTICLE 5 – Jacobus Schrader entered the meeting, acknowledging that for some time he has been separated from his wife, but, having found nothing better, he returned to her. He acknowledged that he had assisted her in not handing over a statement of membership, as

so many in those years had done. He stated that he did not desire to be separated from the congregation, but now was prepared to hand over the membership transfers on behalf of his wife and himself. Signed at Gorinchem, on March 6, 1847. It is his desire now to live in fraternal fellowship with the congregation. He also indicated that he was speaking for his wife, Jannigje Schrader, nee van Dort. He also indicated that during the period of his distancing of himself from the church, he had, nevertheless, to his shame, enjoyed the love and friendship of the congregation.

ARTICLE 6 – The committee of Labots and Keppel reported that they had visited J. Reidsema. At first, there seemed to be hope that the censure should be lifted, but later it became apparent that the man's ongoing bitterness and lack of humility are so self-evident that they lost all hope. He was loveless and denied that he had deservedly been disciplined, but, instead, had been handled improperly, and he would not bow so low. He wanted his censure removed only on the condition that his honor would be restored, and if this were not done, the church could drop him as a member. It was decided that the censure could not be lifted.

ARTICLE 7 – Previously we had permitted the Methodists to make use of our church for their evening service, with the exception of Thursdays, and this had brought about certain objections. This has led to our deciding to appoint the Rev. and Geerlings and Vaupel to meet with leader of that assembly, named Klipper. They are to discuss what is the best and most appropriate way to regulate the matter, so that the offense can be removed. This is judged to be all the more important, because of an unexpected turn in which the situation has gone. Practically the entire congregation has participated, and we do not want to entrust them to the leadership of Klipper. ✓ *clapper*

ARTICLE 7 (sic) – It was decided to meet eight days from now.

The meeting was closed by Brother Oonk.

Wakker reports that Schaap and wife wish to join our congregation, even though for a time they have been with the Secessionists, and were unable to obtain a statement of membership from the Secessionists.

G. Wakker, clerk