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

A. C. Van Raalte

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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17 March 1857

Holland, Michigan

At a consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided and for which he served as clerk, it was reported that Rika Van Zwaluwenburg has begin teaching in the parochial school for \$2.50 per week, not including room and board.

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.

invite the afore-mentioned individual to this work. Approval was given to begin with enrolling girls twelve years old and younger and boys of seven years old and younger.

ARTICLE 4 – A discussion ensued over the location of buildings for the Academy. There is some difference of opinion, and Rev. van Raalte declares that he has no preference for the location, except that he wants the committee to make certain that the building will be placed on a five-acre site, free of cost. A committee was delegated to meet with Rev. van Vleck to consider the hill southeast of the printing shop in Block XLV in the village of Holland.

ARTICLE 5 - A discussion follows over the initiation of preparatory work for the buildings. Rev. van Raalte indicates that Rev. van Vleck, because of his connection to the school and his acquaintance with the brethren in the East, can be expected to do the most significant portion in the efforts to bring this work to completion.

ARTICLE 6 – The meeting was ended with prayer and thanksgiving by \_\_\_\_\_.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting Held on March 17, 1857

✓ Present were Elders B. Ploeg, T. Keppel, J. Labots, J. A. Wilterdink, G. J. Hekhuis, H. Broek, and W. van Apeldoorn; Deacons D. te Roller, P. de Vries, A. Plugger; and Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Willem Oonk made profession of his faith to the satisfaction of all concerned. Albert Albertson and his spouse request membership in the congregation. After questioning, they were encouraged to seek their lives in God, and instruction for them was assigned to Elder Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 3 – A report was presented that Rika Zwaluwenburg is willing to work in the parochial school for \$2.50 per week, not including room and board. She has already begun her work.

ARTICLE 4 – A letter from Hoogenhout and wife, containing many accusations against Rev. A. C. van Raalte, was received. They request a positive membership transfer and that their farewell letters be read from the pulpit.

It was decided to receive these letters as notification and to receive the entire matter for information.

ARTICLE 5 – Mrs. Kallewaard requests transfer of her membership to Grand Haven. This is approved.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to encourage the congregation to pray for the upcoming election of elders and deacons. In order to make a double nomination, the consistory requests members of the congregation to bring written comments concerning the nominees; this to take place before the scheduled consistory meeting of April 10.

ARTICLE 7 – The concluding song, sung by the congregation, has not found favor, and, as a matter of fact, some have even found it to be offensive. It was decided to discontinue this procedure.

ARTICLE 8 – The meeting was closed with prayer and thanksgiving by Brother Broek.

A. C. van Raalte, clerk

Meeting held on April 10, 1857

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

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte. The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Membership transfers were received for Jan Hendrik te Sligte from Aalten, as well as two children; Klaas Vijn and spouse from Grand Haven; Berend Mulder, and his spouse, Antje B. Wierda; Anne Wierda from Kalamazoo; Evert Everhards and spouse from Zeeland; Js. Ellenbaas from Allegan; and Maartje Zwart from Zaandam.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Ploeg notes that in the previous minutes it was not reported that the decision concerning the parochial school was accepted in principle; also that the children would be required to be instructed in the Dutch language, and that the Bible must be used as a textbook; also that the children must be instructed in the Reformed Catechism.

Rev. van Raalte presents a bill for his travel expenses on behalf of the parochial school in the sum of \$40.00. He would not be presenting this