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

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William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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10 April 1857

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, new members were received from Aalten, the Netherlands, Grand Haven, Kalamazoo, Zeeland, Allegan, and Zaandam, the Netherlands. It was also reported that the building used for the parochial school was not large enough for the current enrollment.

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.

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

bill if he were not forced to do so because of his own financial situation. However, he is satisfied with \$25.00. The assembly decides that the expenses should be paid by the congregation.

ARTICLE 4 – Concerning the parochial school, it is reported that the number of children is too large for the building. It is decided to appoint a committee, consisting of te Roller, de Vries, and A. C. van Raalte, with the mandate to attempt to find a solution to the problem through a temporary building to be erected. In the meantime, a second instructor will not be appointed until there is adequate room in the school and the congregation will be able to bear the financial burden.

ARTICLE 5 – The Holland congregation, through the classical allotment for emigration, has received the sum of \$99.85. It is decided to call this to the attention of the needy in the congregation, with the purpose of providing assistance to them from this fund.

ARTICLE 6 – The nominations from the congregation for the deacons and elders to be elected were insufficiently significant. There was a great difference in the six letters of nominations received. It was decided to wait with nominations until there is further clarification in the process.

ARTICLE 7 – A request from people living in school district No. 4, asking for afternoon services, led by a neighboring elder in the local schoolhouse, was received. They were informed that the neighboring elder is ready to lead an evening worship service there, but that this cannot take place in the afternoon, because it will detract from the preaching of the Catechism.

ARTICLE 8 – Brothers Labots and Keppel were requested to inquire of Hellenthal and J. de Vree why they have separated themselves. This will provide certainty concerning their intentions.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting ended with prayer and thanksgiving.

A. C. van Raalte