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

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Nella Kennedy

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5 June 1866

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church, Elder Keppel was chosen chairman in the absence of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. Members of the Van Voorst family were received into the congregation from state church in the Netherlands. The contract was let on the county line church for \$1,550.

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. 266-267.

Consistory Meeting of June 5, 1866

Absent: Brothers de Bruin, Labots, and te Roller.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Beeuwkes.

ARTICLE 2 – Keppel was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 3 – Present at the meeting were Frederik van Voorst, Jacob van Voorst, Jacob Geerlings, and Janna Marie Geerlings, nee van Voorst; all of whom desired to be admitted to the church. The transfers from the Reformed (State) Church of the Netherlands were accepted, and all were received upon confession of faith.

ARTICLE 4 – Present at the meeting were Hendrik Juffer, and Gerredina Juffer, nee Neijenhuis, who had lost their statement of membership and other property. Some of the brothers present are aware that he and his wife were members of the Christian Secessionist Church in the Netherlands. Although they have lived for a long time in America, they have never lived in a place where a Reformed congregation was found, and, therefore, had not presented a statement of membership. Nor had they been willing to join another denomination. Although the membership transfer had been lost with other property on their trip, due to fire, they were prepared to make profession of faith, and in this way to be received as members of the church. It was decided to receive these members on the basis of their testimonial concerning the lost transfer of membership.

ARTICLE 5 – Present at the meeting was Marinus Nagelkerk, requesting the involvement of the consistory, concerning a controversy regarding money between him and Abraham Elferdink. It was decided that he should, first of all, involve other individuals outside of the consistory in an effort to resolve the matter.

ARTICLE 6 – The committee for selling a lot reports that they had received an offer for only \$250.00. Received for information, and the committee was dismissed.

ARTICLE 7 – The committee for Vlietstra reports that they have not completed their assignment, because they were of the opinion that in this case silent censure was not appropriate, but rather that the censure should be made public, without, however, mentioning the name. This proposal was accepted, and the same committee, Labots and Wakker, were assigned to inform Vlietstra.

ARTICLE 8 – Because of complaints against Hogerhorst and wife and because the wife, without having her censure lifted, participated in communion, a committee, consisting of Keppel and Kamper, was appointed to visit these members.

ARTICLE 9 – The committee, for building the church on the county line, reports that the building of the church has moved to the point that a contract has been established, and that the low bidder has been determined, namely, Tira and Elink, for \$1,550.00.

ARTICLE 10 – It was decided that the districts of Wakker and Labots, in School No. 4, will be temporarily transferred to Vork and Beeuwkes.

ARTICLE 11 – Delegates to the special classis meeting were appointed. Wilterdink and Broek will serve, with Keppel and Kamper as alternates.

ARTICLE 12 – After the letter of Joh. Ellenbaas was taken from the table, it was decided to place the matter in the hands of the committee of Labots and Wakker.

ARTICLE 13 – It was decided that for the receipts and disbursements of the money designated for the building of the county church, a director and treasurer should be appointed. The director is Wakker, and the treasurer is Geerlings. Approved.

ARTICLE 14 – Permission was granted for the progress of building the county line church to make use temporarily of funds from the pew rentals.

ARTICLE 15 – The next consistory meeting will be held in the evening at 6 o'clock.

The meeting was closed by Brother Vork.

G. Wakker, clerk