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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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22 August 1853

Holland, Michigan

This meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church of Holland was concerned mainly with complaints. Jan Laarman accused Mrs. Boer of violating a purchase agreement. A committee was appointed to meet with her. Deacon Keppel reported that a member by the name of Hoffman has been spreading slanderous statements about the pastor for more than a year because Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, "for the sake of money, has brought the congregation into an impure church." Hoffman would be admonished for these statements. A Mr. Bos gave offense because of a union with his housekeeper outside the bonds of marriage. He would be barred from the Lord's Supper until he confessed his sin. A Mr. Mulder complained that the consistory dealt too lightly with a Mr. Schrader in "connection with windmill activities." Members present were elders Broek, van Appeldoorn, Hekhuis, Jonker, and Labots and deacons de Weerd, Wilterdink, and Keppel. Van Raalte served as both president and clerk at this meeting.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. William Buursma.

Original in the collection of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, Minutes of the Consistory, volume I, pp. 67-69.

the garment of mourning is exchanged for the bridal array, it is the judgment of the consistory that such situations ought to be banned from the congregation.

ARTICLE 5 – A complaint from Mulder, who is living outside of the congregation, asserts that Schrader, a member, has not been properly admonished in the controversy with him. Rev. van Raalte indicates that he had brought the disputing parties close to reconciliation, and that the land had already been designated. However, at that time, further controversy developed concerning the payment of tax monies on the above-mentioned lands. This controversy he could not mediate.

ARTICLE 6 – A membership statement from Zeeland was received for Spelder.

ARTICLE 7 – The meeting was closed by Brother Jonker.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting held on August 22, 1853

Present were Elders Broek, van Appeldoorn, Hekhuis, Jonker, Labots; Deacons de Weerd, Wilterdink, Keppel; and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Hendrikje Verbeek, born Rijdsma, accepts her baptismal responsibility by confessing her faith, and is admitted to the Lord's Supper. She is commended to the Lord in prayer.

ARTICLE 3 – A member Jan Laarman brings a complaint against

a member, Mrs. Boer, for violating a purchase agreement. He has sold to her and her husband land, with the exception of the oak trees. Many members of the consistory have frequently admonished her in vain, and have invited her to appear before the consistory.

It was decided, once again, to appoint a committee to visit her, in the presence of the aggrieved party, to testify to her and to admonish to do what is right. Her refusal will mean her exclusion from the Lord's Supper. Her behavior has for a long time been a public scandal.

ARTICLE 4 – Deacon Keppel, relating a conversation with Pluggemans, declares that a member Hoffman, a farmer, has for more than a year been spreading slanderous statements concerning the pastor; namely, that Rev. van Raalte, for the sake of money, has brought the congregation into an impure church. Pluggemans confirms this, and says that other witnesses, particularly Veeneklaassen, are able to confirm these statements, should Hoffman continue to deny them. It was decided to earnestly admonish Hoffman.

ARTICLE 5 - A member Bos has given public offense by his union with his housekeeper outside of the marriage bond, evidenced by the fact that she gave birth three months prematurely. It was decided to publicly bar him from the Lord's table until he has confessed his sin.

ARTICLR 6 – Mulder presents a complaint against the consistory, alleging that they have dealt too lightly with Schrader and excused his conduct in the matter of the damages incurred in connection with the windmill activities. The consistory has permitted Schrader to come to the table of the Lord.

Rev. van Raalte informs the meeting that he had brought the parties together and that Schrader was prepared to relinquish forty acres to Mulder. However, a new dispute arose concerning unpaid bills and the amount of tax liability in connection with the forty acres. Rev. van Raalte was unable to adjudicate the latter matter.

It was decided to make another attempt to reconcile both parties.

ARTICLE 7 – A member of the congregation, J. Schaap, requests the administration of baptism for his child during the period that he is journeying with his family to this vicinity. His request is granted, due to the circumstances involved.

ARTICLE 8 – The minutes were read and approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Keppel.

A. C. van Raalte, president and clerk

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Burgema,
Translating*