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

A. C. Van Raalte

William Buursma

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20 September 1853

Holland, Michigan

Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, elders Broek, Labots, Appeldoorn, Jonker, and Hekhuis and deacons de Weerd, Wilterdink, and Keppel were present at the Consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church of Holland. After the opening prayer, K. L. Mulder made confession of faith but Deacon Keppel made charges against him, one being that he desired to participate in worldly amusements on the Sabbath. Mulder denied the charge but before an announcement would be made of his confession, other witnesses needed to be heard from. The Consistory, upon the request of several widows, decided to ask the Holland Classis to make a ruling on the time which must elapse before remarriage can take place.

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. 70-71.

Meeting of September 5, 1853

Present were Elders Hekhuis, Broek, Labots; and Deacon Keppel ; and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The matter of the alleged premature birth of a child to Mrs. Vissers, who had been accused by Mrs. Haverkate of premature sexual union (with her husband), was discussed. It was judged that there was no proof, since the child was born prematurely and the accusation was considered to be slanderous.

ARTICLE 3 – The matter of the slaughter of a pig by Vennema, which led to an appearance before a civic judge, at the complaint of Mr. Doesburg, was handed over to a committee of Brothers Labots and Keppel, with the mandate to seek both peace and reparation. Their mandate was accomplished.

ARTICLE 4 – The meeting was closed with prayer.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting of September 20, 1853

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

ARTICLE 1 – After the opening prayer, K. L. Mulder made profession of faith, which was accepted. However, the announcement

will be postponed, because of objections brought by Brother Keppel, who reported hearing from Brother Schrader and his wife that Mulder had displayed irreverence during prayer and that he revealed a desire to participate in worldly amusement on the Sabbath. It is decided to look for other witnesses, since Mulder denies the charge.

ARTICLE 2 – Delegates to the classical meeting were appointed; namely, Elders Labots and Appeldoorn, and Rev. van Raalte.

It was decided to request a classical ruling concerning the timing of remarriage of widows. This request has its source in the desire of several widows, who wish to be joined in marriage before nine months have passed (since the death of their husbands).

ARTICLE 3 – A letter from van den Berg, a member who has recently left for Grand Haven, calls attention to the fact that his membership statement was silent on the fact that he had served as a deacon. It was decided to reply by telling him that a membership statement is merely requested and given. It is not our custom to add additional details, and there is no regulation, nor precedent in the church order. However, the consistory does not have the slightest objection if it is asked to give a testimonial concerning his service as deacon.

ARTICLE 4 – The meeting was closed with prayer.

A. C. van Raalte

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Buerisma,  
Translating*