

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859

Van Raalte Papers

11-22-1853

Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

A. C. Van Raalte

William Buursma

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s

The original documents are held in The Joint Archives of Holland. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from [The Joint Archives of Holland](#).

Recommended Citation

Van Raalte, A. C. and Buursma, William, "Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church" (1853). *Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859*. 389.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1850s/389

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1850-1859 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

22 November 1853

Holland, Michigan

The entire meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church was taken up with the issue of the arrears in Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte's salary. He was promised \$600 per year but in 1852 he received \$251.00 and so far in 1853, \$240.00. One reason for the arrears some felt was that so much of the offerings of the congregation went to outside causes. It was known that the pastor was also willing to receive his salary in the form of donated labor on his property so that VR was not forced to sell his property needlessly and at a lower price to satisfy his creditors. It was decided that every male member was obligated to work one day a month for the pastor's salary, calculated as sixty-two and one-half cents for a day's pay. That would add up to \$7.50 per year. Van Raalte served as clerk of the 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. 74-76.

months.

By a nearly unanimous vote, the brethren judged that this marriage must be performed; however, under the stigma of disapproval.

It is also decided by the majority that they do not have the freedom to prevent Widow Broersma from marrying K. Mulder. The reason for this is that he, as a baptized member, has placed himself under the supervision of the congregation. Even though there are negative comments about his behavior, this would place him under the admonition of the church. It should not lead to an obstruction of the marriage ceremony.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting Held on November 22, 1853

All members were present, except H. Broek.

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

ARTICLE 2 - A report and an accounting of the poor fund was given by Brother Keppel. His report was approved and, on behalf of the consistory, Labots signed the report.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother de Weerd reports on the receipts for the salary of the pastor. It appears that the pastor received \$251.00 in 1852 and approximately \$240.00 in 1853. This number is far below the required \$600.00, and much discussion followed concerning the necessity to pay the pastor his salary, as well as the destructive

impact of this negligence upon him and the congregation. The reason for this shortcoming is discussed. There are those who believe that this apathy can be found in the fact that so many collections go to outside causes.

The pastor asserts that it is his calling to labor with care and intense exertion, so that those who confess their faith advocate good works. This frequently has an indirect and positive influence on the total contribution to his salary, rather than that they would reduce the amount raised.

Experience has confirmed this, because ever since we have begun to exercise benevolence, the entire salary has not been raised, only approximately one-half. But before we began to exercise benevolence, contributions to the pastor's salary were equally diminished.

The pastor also asserted that giving for other causes has not made it impossible, because everywhere there is further development and increased growth. For this reason, inability cannot be the cause for the arrears. This is particularly true because the pastor has always been ready to receive his salary not in cash but in labor. If that labor had been donated, he would not have had to sell his property needlessly and at a price lower than its actual value in order to satisfy his creditors.

There is a further discussion concerning the means by which the congregation can be led to better ways.

Finally, it is decided to request of every male member of the congregation to work one day a month for the pastor, or that they provide for him in another way the daily salary which is calculated at the rate of 62-1/2. This means that each male member is required to pay towards the salary not less than \$7.50.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Deacon Wilterdink.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting Held November 28, 1853

All members of the consistory were present, with the exception of Deacon Wilterdink.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte. The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

Deacon de Weerd, who has called for this meeting, indicates his desire that since the congregation had approved by a nearly unanimous vote the proposal of the previous consistory meeting at the congregational meeting held on Thanksgiving Day, namely, that each male member contribute at least twelve days in the year, or in place of this \$7.50 towards the salary of the pastor, that now the consistory also, in all seriousness, labors

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Beversma,
Translating*