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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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28 November 1853

Holland, Michigan

Deacon de Weerd reported at a meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church that at the congregational meeting on Thanksgiving Day the members were nearly unanimous in approving the recommendation of the Consistory that each male member contribute \$7.50 per year to the salary of their pastor, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. Opponents implied that was insufficient because the congregation was not providing free housing for the pastor. All payments for the salary support were to be made at Plugger's store. When someone supplied labor on the pastor's property, the pastor needed to provide a receipt. Those who wished to pay by contributing labor, that could only be done on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the month.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. William Buursma.

Original in the collection of Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College, Minutes of the Consistory, volume I, pp. 76-78.

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

to make the good intentions a reality. It is his opinion that it is now time to call to the attention of those who have not done their part of their negligence. The question is posed as to how to deal with those who have set their intended contributions at a lower level or intend to do so. The pretext used is that the total will be more than that which had been agreed to with the pastor, namely \$600.00

After some exchange of views concerning the negatives involved in payment via labor and several other ways of payment, as well as the needs, it was decided to require \$7.50 as a minimum. This was approved by a large majority of the congregation, with the intent of it being faithfully and without alteration implemented.

The opponents of the decision were pointed to the additional needs of the pastor's family and the responsibility of the church to provide free housing, as well as to pay for the arrears in his salary.

It is further decided to canvass the congregation before January to elucidate the decisions made. Members will be requested to make payments monthly at the store of Brother Plugger, because it would be an unfair burden for the deacons to collect these funds.

Furthermore, it was decided that those who desire to work (rather than pay cash) should do so only on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each month, so that there can be regulations and

good order in the fulfillment of this work. The pastor will be required to regularly give a receipt for the work days contributed.

The district of Brother Wilterdink will need to be visited by others who do not live in the district.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Hekhuis.

Holland, November ²18, 1853 A. C. van Raalte

Meeting Held on December 5, 1853

Present were the Brothers Jan Albert Wilterdink, Broek, Jonker; and Deacon Keppel; and Rev. van Raalte.

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

ARTICLE 1 – The Brothers Krabshuis and Hellenthal request the floor and wish to know whether the consistory has forbidden the printer Doesburg to place the article of Krabshuis in the paper. The consistory declares that it has no power to do this, but that it does most sincerely regret that Brother Krabshuis has involved himself in a controversy over a point of difference; namely, the well-meant offer, a subject about which so much has been spoken and written. The consistory has always looked upon its calling to urge all, including the printer, to refrain from such actions. A further lengthy discussion concerning

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Beuvsma,
Translating*