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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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22 October 1866

Holland, Michigan

Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was back from the Netherlands and present at this meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church. "Since the English, or Second Church locally, seems to have no objection to receiving members of the Masonic Lodge into the fellowship of their congregation and admit them to the table of the Lord, it was decided that it is our calling in a Christian protest to witness against this, following the church order."

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, p. 271.

Consistory Meeting of October 22, 1866

Absent: Brothers Broek, de Bruin, and Vork.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev.A. C. van Raalte, chairman.

ARTICLE 2 – The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

ARTICLE 3 – A membership transfer was received for Jacobus van den Berge, and wife, and for Sara and Janneke van den Berge, from Grand Rapids, dated February 20, 1866. Also, membership statements were received for Cornelis Braam and wife, from Rolland, Netherlands. However, they are not members in full communion.

ARTICLE 4 – A statement of membership was asked and granted to Janna Kiekintveld, nee van den Berge, to Grandville.

ARTICLE 5 – The committee for Vlietstra could not yet report.

ARTICLE 6 – The committee for B. Taeke that they have informed him of the consistorial decision concerning his censure. Also that of M. de Boe.

ARTICLE 7 – Since the English, or Second Church locally, seems to have no objection to receiving members of the Masonic Lodge into the fellowship of their congregation and admit them to the table of the Lord, it was decided that it is our calling in a Christian protest to witness against this, following the church order.

ARTICLE 8 – The consistory of Grandville asked Brother Labots whether the congregation of Holland is willing to pay \$300.00 of their debt to the Schenk funds so that their congregation could receive this sum. It was decided that Labots is to reply to them that we are not able to acquiesce in this request.

ARTICLE 9 – Delegates to the upcoming special classical meeting will be Kamper and Wilterdink, with Onk and Keppel serving as alternates.

ARTICLE 10 – The meeting was closed by Wakker.

G. Wakker, clerk