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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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2 January 1854

Holland, Michigan

Several matters came before the Consistory of the First Reformed Church at their meeting on this date. There was a dispute about the ownership of a gulden among some members. Some consistory members cautioned about the planning of the new building to avoid bitterness and division. Elder Broek said more had to be said about the new method of paying their pastor, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. Some members of the congregation were unwilling to cooperate. On Old Year's Day, the pew rentals brought in \$230.00, \$100.00 of which given to the pastor for his needs.

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.79-81.

whether or not Banter's one-sided handling of the truth has been correct, and, further, a discussion concerning the natural consequences of controversy, etc. etc.

ARTICLE 2 – It was decided to give heed to the classical challenge concerning collections on behalf of Brother van der Luijter, whose barn, corn, and other products were destroyed by lightening. It is decided to do this eight days after next Sunday.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. van Raalte.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting of January 2, 1854

Present were Elders Hekhuis, Wilterdink, Jonker, Broek; Deacons Plugger and Keppel; as well as Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 - The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. van Raalte, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

ARTICLE 2 – This article was declared illegible, according to Article 1 in the minutes of February 13, 1854

ARTICLE 3 – A complaint was read from Brother Hoffman against a female member, Mrs. Schaddelee, accusing her of taking away the honor and good name of Jaanteje van der Tuk. She is accused of hiding a gulden which had been stolen by her little brother, Piet. The charge is based on Pete's confession that he had taken a pretty coin and given it to his sister, Jaanteje.

It was decided that it was necessary to inform Mrs. Schaddelee that she must be more careful to maintain a good reputation, and, at the same time, Hoffman was informed that suspicions are not yet evidence.

Mrs. Schaddelee was warned to be more careful about accusations which could not be proved., and Mr. Hoffman was informed that his accusations were not grounded and contained suspicions concerning Mrs. Schaddelee which he could not prove.

ARTICLE 4 – Several of the brothers made comments about the necessity of proceeding with caution in the planning of the church building, so that no bitterness and division arise. All are completely in agreement with this challenge.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Jonker requests that when the collection for Brother W. van der Luijster is taken, the gifts be recorded. The sum involved is \$21.00.

ARTICLE 6 – Brother Broek asks about if anything further can be done in instructing the members concerning the new arrangement for the pastor's salary. It has become apparent that there are several in the congregation who are unwilling. This led to a discussion about the difficulty of regulating the free labor that is expected. In six months the congregation will be given a complete report of the situation, and requested for input concerning how to deal with those in the congregation who are unwilling and unavailable, as far as church discipline is concerned.

ARTICLE 7 – On Old Year's Day the rental for pews brought about approximately \$230.00. After payment of the debts, it was decided that the sum remaining should be given to the pastor. The amount of 100.00 was given to him as support in his needs.

The meeting with closed with a prayer of thanksgiving by Brother Hekhuis.

A. C. van Raalte

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Beversma,
Translating*