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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

G. Wakker

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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18 December 1866

Holland, Michigan

At a consistory meeting of the First Reformed Church along with members of the building committee, a meeting at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, it was proposed to "build a new Third church in the village." The report also contained several related issues.

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, pp. 276-277.

Consistory Meeting of December 12, 1866

Present: Rev. A. C. van Raalte, Keppel, Wakker, Kamper, Geerlings, Beeuwkes, Kieft; and from the building committee: K. Schaddelee, G. van Putten, Sprietsma, Pessink, Jan Reidsema.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Kamper. Membership received for Geert Dalman, from Grand Rapids, dated November 19, 1866; also Frederik Fechter and Jantje Fechter, nee Rijpma, from Vriesland, dated November 1, 1866; and Gerrit Jan te Winkel, from Geestren, Netherlands, dated August 14, 1866.

In a report brought by the building committee, a threefold proposal was presented, after a lengthy discussion: (1) To build a church for plus-minus \$5,000.00; (2) Through voluntary contributions and with the help from the pew rental fund, to obtain the above-mentioned funds; (3) If necessary, to loan money not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Because there were so many of the consistory and building committee absent, it was decided to meet again eight days from now, to discuss the matter further. No proposal or decision was made

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Reidsema.

N.B.: M. Hazekamp and wife resigned from the church membership.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting, with the Building Committee
December 18, 1866

Present: Rev. A. C. van Raalte, Wakker, Keppel, Labots, de Bruin, Broek, Wilterdink, Beeuwkes, te Roller, Geerlings, Kieft; from the building committee: K. Schaddelee, Vennema, Toorn, L. Schaddelee, Pessink, J. Reidsema.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The building committee, once again, presents its proposals. The assembly decides to discuss it.

The first part was considered, which reads as follows: That the part of the congregation living outside the village and who have contributed to the

building of a church, known as the County Line Church, will not be asked to contribute for the building of the new church in the village. After this portion of the proposal was rejected by the assembly, the remainder of the report was withdrawn by the chairman of the building committee.

The assembly now returned to the temporary proposal made at the previous meeting of December 12, and decided unanimously to present the following at the congregational meeting:

1. To build a new Third church in the village.
2. The expenses for this church will be approximately \$5,000.00
3. The funds will be gathered in by voluntary pledges.
4. In case that there is insufficient participation in achieving the budget referred to in Number 2, the consistory, as the board of trustees, will be authorized to borrow, in the name of the congregation, the shortage. The interest is not to exceed 10% per year. The amount of money to be loaned may not exceed \$2,000.00, unless the congregation authorizes a greater amount.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided that the pastor, with two members of the building committee, K. Schaddelee and L. Sprietsma, will take temporary suitable steps for the favorable outcome of the pledge drive. They can do this by calling for a temporary smaller meeting, or by visiting the homes of members who are well off.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Wilterdink.

G. Wakker, clerk