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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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William Buursma

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11 April 1854

Holland, Michigan

This meeting of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church was poorly attended. Only the pastor, Rev. Albertus A. Van Raalte, elders Broek, Jonker, Wilterdink and deacons Wilterdink and de Weerd were present. At the close of the meeting, it was ruled that absent members were to give the reason for their absence. It was reported that James Veneklaassen had stolen an otter from a trap owned by an Indian. He must confess his sin. A Mr. Hudson accused Brink and D. Hekhuis of stealing young fruit trees as well as boards and hay. Elder Wilterdink was designated to contact Hudson about the allegations. Consistory accepted the offer of an anonymous donor for a gift of \$15 to begin a church library under the condition that others contribute a matching gift of \$30.

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. 96 - 97 .

and Keppel were delegated to labor in earnest in resolving this offense.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Appeldoorn.

A. C. van Raalte

Meeting Held on April 11, 1854

Present were Elders Broek, Jonker, and Wilterdink; Deacons Wilterdink and de Weerd; as well as Rev. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – A membership was received for Janna Geertirui Wilterdink.

ARTICLE 2 – James Veneklaassen, having stolen an otter captured in an Indian trap, has caused much offense, although the Indian has been mollified by the father. The consistory has judged that he must confess his sin; otherwise the sin will be punished publicly.

ARTICLE 3 – Mr. Hudson declares that young fruit trees have been stolen by Brink and D. Hekhuis, as well as boards and hay. Rev. van Raalte remarks that for nearly three years, these people have received permission from van Raalte's servant that they were allowed to take with them the cullings. He adds that Mr. Hudson, who was aware of this arrangement, must be told that it is unfair of him to injure the good name of these men.
Elder Wilterdink

was mandated to inform Mr. Hudson, and, at the same time, to make a careful investigation concerning the alleged wood and hay thieves.

ARTICLE 4 – Mention was made that some consistory members have imprudently asserted that a member, Hoogerstege, had called the pastor a Remonstrant and had been told to refrain from coming to the Lord's table.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided to encircle the cemetery with boards to keep pigs away.

ARTICLE 6 – Delegates appointed to classis, in addition to Rev. van Raalte, are Jonker and Broek. They were mandated to request the institution of a classical treasury. They are also to inquire how to deal with membership papers of those who come from Europe seeking membership. They were instructed to vote in favor of the word "Dutch" in the official church title, as well as the addition in the number of church visitors, by adding one non-clergy member. They are also to support an annual collection for the assistance of widows and children of deceased ministers and ministers who, either because of illness or age, are unable to serve.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided to take the \$50.00 collected for transportation for the needy and to designate it for a specific purpose,

and not to place the money in the pew lottery treasury. An attempt will be made to collect an additional \$30.00 through voluntary contributions, in order to assist the parents of Brother Heemstra's wife to come here.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided to accept the offer of \$15.00 for a congregational library, under the condition that an additional \$30.00 be contributed for the same cause. This offer comes from an anonymous giver via the secretary of Home Missions. The library will be controlled by the pastor of the church and only used for the advancement of the preaching of Christ and him crucified.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided that absentee consistory members shall give written reasons for their absence.

ARTICLE 10 – It was decided to request classis to stipulate a day of prayer for crops.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

A. C. van Raalte

MINUTES OF THE NINTH STREET CRC.,

OF

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

November 5, 1850 – May 24. 1855

Volume I

*Rev. William Beuvsma,
Translating*