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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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12 March 1867

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, several new members were received. Pews will be rented after all and the committee to determine the amount of the rent reported. No amount was stated but the report was accepted.

In Dutch; translation by Rev. Willaim and Althea Buursma, 2000.

Original in the records of the Pillar Christian Reformed Church at the Joint Archives of Holland, vol. II, pp. 284-286.

Consistory Meeting of March 12, 1867

Absent: Brothers de Bruin, Vork, Oonk, and Beeuwkes.

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

ARTICLE 2 – Present at the meeting was J. van Dam, once again desiring to be admitted to the table of the Lord. If this cannot be, he is inclined to attend another church. After admonition and instruction given by the chairman, he left the meeting dissatisfied.

ARTICLE 3 – Present at the meeting were Hendrik Taeke, Gerrit Andreas van Voorst, Jan van Voorst, Jacobina Florendina van Voorst, Hendrik Geerlings, Derkje Geerlings, nee van Voorst, Hendrik van Lenten, Pieter Ellink, Janna Gezine Hidding, nee Rensink; all of whom desired to be received by profession of faith. All were accepted.

ARTICLE 4 – Brothers Broek and Wilterdink report that they have spoken with the senior van Voorst, who, because of illness, was not able to be present, but also wished to be received into the fellowship of the church. Based on this information, these brothers were appointed as a committee to deal with him, and, if he so desires, to accept him, but to handle the matter cautiously and slowly.

ARTICLE 5 – At the request of the wife of van Coeveren, a committee was appointed, consisting of the pastor and Labots, with power to act in her desire to be received into the fellowship of the church and to be admitted to the table of the Lord.

ARTICLE 6 – Membership statements were requested and granted to Wierenga and wife, de Veentie and wife, to Muskegon; and P. Dijk to Drenthe.

ARTICLE 7 – Statement of membership was received for J. L. Hetebrij and wife from Genemuïden, Netherlands.

ARTICLE 8 – The committee, for determining the pew rental costs for the benches, reported. This report was received and approved.

ARTICLE 9 – According to custom, all of the brothers declare that they are able to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a fraternal fashion.

The meeting was ended with prayer by Brother Labots.

G. Wakker, clerk

Congregational Meeting of March 14, 1867

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

The sketches of the church and tower were available and viewed by the members present. It was decided to add a committee to the consistory for the regulations involved in building the church. The committee consists of the following persons: C. van der Veen, Jan Trump, Werkman, J. Pauls, C. de Jong, G. van Putten, G. I. ter Vaarwerk.

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

G. Wakker, clerk

Received by transfer of membership: Johannes Simon de Wit and Janntje Hendriks de Wit, nee Drenth, from Warfun, Netherlands, as baptized members, dated September 3, 1866;
Simon Waling and wife, from Klundert, April 10, 1854;
Geridina van Coeverden, nee Louman, from Amsterdam North, by profession of faith;
Jacob Florijn van Voorst, by profession of faith;
With a membership statement, Schelte Bergsma, from Vriesland, dated March 12, 1867.

The above belongs to the minutes of the previous meeting.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of April 1, 1867
With the Building Committee of the church

Absent: Some members of the consistory and the committee.

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

ARTICLE 2 – The president reports that the sum of plus-minus \$4,000.00 has been pledged.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided that in the current circumstances not to include a tower, and in place of a stone foundation, wooden beams will be placed under the church. The church will not be 90 feet but 80 feet long, without a portal, with the intention of later adding a portal and tower.

ARTICLE 4 – It was decided that a committee, consisting of Keppel and C. Werkman, will see to it that there is a written plan to be obtained from the carpenters, J. Klijn or W. Minderhout, with the estimate of cost. This committee, when it has completed its work, is to inform the clerk so that there can be a meeting called speedily.

The meeting was closed by the president.

G. Wakker, clerk