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Meeting Minutes of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church

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11 September 1867

Holland, Michigan

At a congregational meeting of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided, the pastor informed the assembly that the call letter to Donner in the Netherlands was sent. In view of the fact that Donner had a large family, the congregation decided to raise his salary from \$800 to \$1,000.

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. 296-297.

Opening of the pledges revealed that the amount promised by 50 members was \$443.00. A judgment was made that, if the absent members paid in like proportion, the sum would not be adequate. It was thereupon decided to increase the pledges with no objection registered. Because the chairman was absent from the meeting, Brother Keppel had functioned as temporary chairman.

G. Wakker, clerk

Congregational Meeting of September 11, 1867

After beginning with a time of prayer and Psalm singing, the Rev. A. C. van Raalte informed the meeting that the consistory had sent a letter of call to the Netherlands, and now desire to discuss with the congregation various items. At this point, the Rev. asked consistory members to address the meeting.

Several of the brothers of the consistory reported that they wanted to alert the congregation that the church had asked for God's leading and blessing in prayer, before they had extended a call to Rev. Donner, who has a large family. The concern was expressed that in these expensive times \$800.00 might not be enough for the pastor-elect. Would he be released from worldly concerns, or should the salary proposed be a cause for declining this call? Emphasis was placed on the fact that the congregation should clearly understand that the consistory was not reporting this, because of any desire to change the call, but rather that they were perfectly willing to acquiesce in whatever decision the congregation, under the direction of God's all-wise and good providence, would decide. The consistory, therefore, was prepared, should the congregation judge it wise to send the letter of call as it was originally planned. The consistory is only expressing this concern, because they feel that this is their duty and calling.

After various comments had been made, a proposal was made to bring the salary total up to \$1,000.00 annually. Brother Schaddelee, although he indicated that he approved the \$1,000.00 salary, could not give his approbation to this decision, because there were less than 2/3rds of the required number of members present.

Note: According to the custom of the congregation, the church members were called upon to attend this congregational meeting, and for this reason the legality of the meeting was declared.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Vaarwerk.

G. Wakker, clerk

Consistory Meeting of September 18, 1867

Absent: Brother Labots.

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

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

ARTICLE 3 – Andries Steketee entered the meeting, desiring to be admitted to the table of the Lord. After an interview, he was accepted.

ARTICLE 4 – The chairman informed the meeting that J. van Dam had accompanied him to van Dam's wife, and had declared himself prepared to live with her again. The wife, however, had rejected this, and was unwilling to heal the ruptured relationship.

It was decided that once again a committee would be appointed to investigate this matter, and, upon a satisfactory statement from J. van Dam to lift his censure.

Membership statement received for C. H. Schols and wife, from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, dated February 20, 1867. Also that of M. J. van der Sluis, from Marrum, the Netherlands, dated 1867.