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Meeting Minutes of the Congregation of the First Reformed Church

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28 November 1867

Holland, Michigan

The congregational meeting of the First Reformed Church was opened and closed with prayer by Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte. The singing of Psalm 119.6 was sung prior to the opening prayer. A financial report was made. The poor fund was \$84.07 in arrears. Elders and deacons were elected. The trio of Pieters, Zwemer, and Oggel was approved.

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. 299-300.

Congregational Meeting of November 28, 1867

Thanksgiving Day

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with the singing of Psalm 119: 6, and prayer by the Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 2 – A report was given concerning the financial status as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Sunday collections for the poor - | \$1,685.29 |
| Collections for the missionaries - | 211.22 |
| For emigrants arriving at New York - | 41.70 |
| For the classical education fund - | 316.00 |
| Total - | 2,254.21 |
| Collection take for the poor, this A.M. - | 24.73 |
| For classis education fund - | 24.73 |
| For mission work - | 5.00 |
| Pew rentals - | 952.00 |
| Disbursements for the poor | 1,676.36 |
| | |
| Unpaid obligations - | 90.00 |
| | 1,766.36 |
| Shortage in the poor fund - | 84.07 |

ARTICLE 3 – After the president had mentioned certain persons, according to the decisions of the consistory, the membership voted by ballot for elders. In addition to the retiring elders, Broek and Kamper, two new elders are to be chosen. The count of the ballots revealed that Kamper received 48 votes and Broek 53, Pijster 32, Schrader 35, van den Berge 16, Beeuwkes 15, Sprietsma 9, J. Smits 11, Bergsma 6, and several other persons 1, 2, or 3 votes. Consequently, Broek, Kamper, Schrader, and Pijster were chosen.

ARTICLE 4 – Balloting for deacons revealed that A. Geerlings had 60 votes, Vaarwerk 27, Vaupel 26, Sprietsma 20, J. ter Vree 20, J. Smits 19, A. van Rij 8, Kroon 10, and others 1.

A, Geerlings, H. Vaupel, and G. Vaarwerk were elected. A rebalot between Sprietsma, J. ter Vree, and Smits followed. Opening of the ballots revealed that Sprietsma received 29 votes, J. ter Vree 30, and J. Smits 10. By motion, both brothers, L. Sprietsma and Jan ter Vree were elected by unanimous vote as deacons.

ARTICLE 5 – In voting for a trio of ministers, the ballots revealed that Rev. R. Pieters had 35, A. Zwemer 34, C. Oggel 19, Duiker 11. There were other additional votes. It was decided to place the Revs. Pieters, Zwemer, and Oggel on a trio, and to meet eight days from now, with an hour of prayer preceding, in order to call a shepherd and teacher.

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

G. Wakker, clerk

Congregational Meeting of December 4, 1867

After a sermon, based on Matthew 9: 31, and followed by a prayer service, the assembly voted for a pastor.

Opening of the ballots revealed that the Rev. R. Pieters had 31 votes, A. Zwemer had 14, C. Oggel had 7. By motion, it was decided to call Rev. Pieters by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2 (sic) – It was decided to stipulate the salary at \$1,000.00 and free dwelling annually.

The meeting was closed with the singing of Psalm 18: 8, and prayer by Rev. A. C. van Raalte.

G. Wakker, clerk