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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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2 July 1868

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Elder Keppel was chairman, it was noted in article 3 that Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte's letter of 4 June was set aside until the next meeting. Most of the meeting was spent on the domestic problems of the Gerrit Wakker family.

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.321a, 321b, and 322.

Wakker. it came down to this. She felt that the departure of her husband was not good, but that she could not decide to return to him, because she is afraid that the outcome excludes their being able to live in peace. She added, however, that she does not so much have objections against Wakker but more against Marien.

ARTICLE 3 – The committee reported on meeting with G. Wakker. Wakker declared that the first difficulty came through Cornelis, her son. Then later, small domestic disagreements which have devastated their lives. After the committee had spoken at length, they advised Brother Wakker to make an attempt to go to his wife and to request her to live with him. Wakker gave neither a yes or a no in response, as to what he was willing to do.

ARTICLE 4 – The consistory is of the opinion to, once again, appoint a committee to labor with Brother Wakker and his wife. The committee consists of Kamper, Sprietsma, and Keppel.

The meeting was ended with prayer by Brother ter Vree.

T. Keppel, clerk

Consistory Meeting of July 2, 1868

Present: Brothers Broek, Kamper, Keppel, Pijster, Schrader, ter Vree, Geerlings, Sprietsma, Vaarwerk, Vaupel.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Pijster. Chairman is Keppel. The minutes were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Folkert de Vries was accepted upon confession of faith.

ARTICLE 3 – The letter of Dr. van Raalte, dated June 4, was put aside until the following meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – A statement of membership for Oostendorp and wife was sent to Grand Rapids.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Keppel was appointed to write to Brecker in Muskegon.

ARTICLE 6 – A membership transfer for Marien de Boe was given for affiliation at Singapore. The censure was lifted.

ARTICLE 7 – A report from the committee of Keppel, Kamper, and Sprietsma, concerning Brother Wakker and wife, indicates that she had declared a desire to have called her husband back so that a more peaceful farewell from him could have been taken, before she left for Drenthe. When the committee asked her to do so, she said she could not decide to do this. When asked if the children, with the exception of the two youngest,

were to be taken out of the home, and her husband was willing, would she then be inclined to live with her husband again. She stated that she could not give an answer to this, nor could she give a reason for her refusal. Furthermore, the committee reports that they had asked Brother Wakker if he was willing to live with his wife once again. He did not respond to this question, and at the end of their conversation, Wakker indicated that he has experienced a fearful struggle of conscience, but that it is now easier for him. The hurts he has received from others, he has set aside, and wishes to leave the matter in the hands of the Lord. He also indicates that the departure from his wife has been a relief and blessing.

ARTICLE 8 – The letter of Brother Wakker, containing his resignation from ecclesiastical service, was acted upon.

ARTICLE 9 – It was decided to inform the congregation of this on Sunday, July 5.

ARTICLE 10 – The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Keppel.

J. Schrader, clerk

Consistory Meeting of July 7, 1868

Present: Brothers Broek, Keppel, Pijster, Schrader, Geerlings, Sprietsma, Vaupel, ter Vree, Vaarwerk.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened by Brother Keppel. Brother Broek was chairman. The minutes were read and, with some corrections, approved.

ARTICLE 2 – A letter from Marien de Bos, in which he confesses previously disorderly conduct, due to drunkenness, was received and accepted.

ARTICLE 3 – It was decided to appoint a committee of five persons, namely, Schrader, Keppel, Pijster, Geerlings, and Vaupel, for the building of a stone foundation under the church.

ARTICLE 4 – It was proposed and accepted to pay Landegend and Company and Wakker the available monies on a percentage basis.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that pastors who come to preach here will be paid \$3.00 and travel expenses for each sermon.