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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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25 December 1868

Holland, Michigan

At a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte opened with prayer, Student [Ale?] Buursma appeared before the consistory and learned that he had to make a public confession because his wife became pregnant before they were married. "He gladly agreed to this, and Rev. van Raalte led in prayer."

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. III, pp. 7b and 8a.

ARTICLE 3 – It was moved and supported to select Option No. 3, frame building with one brick. Approved by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 4 – The standing committee was requested to make a plan and to seek bids.

ARTICLE 5 – A proposal was approved requesting the committee of Vaarwerk, Schaddelee, and Schrader to purchase the necessary brick at the most reasonable price.

ARTICLE 6 – A proposal was approved that van den Berge and Toorn take on the responsibility for the chalkshed (?).

ARTICLE 7 – It was moved and supported that Brothers Pouwels and Schaddelee circulate the pledge statement to the members of the building committee who have not been present.

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided to adjourn until eight days later. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother van den Berge.

J. Schrader, clerk

Consistory Meeting of December 25, 1868 ✓

Present were Brothers Dr. van Raalte, Broek, Kamper, van den Berge, Peijster, Keppel, Schrader, Geerlings, Sprietsma, Vaupell, Smits, Vaarwerk, ter Vree.
The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. van Raalte.

ARTICLE 1 – Student Buursma entered the meeting

And, when asked what he desired, he said that he had not correctly understood Brother Broek, and that he had not asked to appear before the consistory. He did, however, intend to say that he had no objection to coming to the consistory, if they summoned him.

ARTICLE 2 – There was a discussion concerning his situation, in which he had done wrong, and was still doing wrong. It was finally decided that his sin of premature sexual intimacy with the woman who is now his wife had become public, a public confession before the congregation was essential. He gladly agreed to this, and Rev. van Raalte led in prayer. The time elapsed made it necessary to close the meeting.

Consistory Meeting of December 28, 1868

Present were Brothers Kamper, van den Berge, Keppel, Schrader, Geerlings, Sprietsma, Vaupell, Vaarwerk, Smits, ter Vree.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Kamper.

ARTICLE 1 – Brother Kamper was chosen to serve as president. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – A beginning was made with a review of the financial accounts to be considered at the congregational meeting at the end of the year.

ARTICLE 3 – As agreed, at 7 o'clock, the building committee, consisting of Messrs. Pouwels, Toorn, and Schaddelee, entered the meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been read and approved, and the plan for raising funds was read. After having heard this, these plans were approved for the time being.

ARTICLE 5 – The approximate cost was stipulated as \$2,759.00.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to include the price of the lot, and to set the total cost at \$3,500.00.

ARTICLE 7 – It was decided that when Brother van den Berge goes to Grand Rapids, he will inquire about the cost of the chalk and stone thresholds under the window frames.

ARTICLE 8 – After the building committee had left, there was a further discussion concerning the finances and that the church would require an additional \$600.00 for 1869.

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