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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

Keppel Schader

William Buursma

Althea Buursma

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19 December 1869

Holland, Michigan

One of the matters under discussion at a meeting of the consistory of the First Reformed Church was to award \$50 to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte because the church was not able to pay the salary promised to Rev. Van Raalte last year.

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.33b and 34.

Adjourned Meeting of December 19, 1869

Present were Brothers van den Berge, Keppel, Schrader, Geerlings, Vaupel, Smits, Vaarwerk, ter Vree, and Mr. Schaddelee.

The members of the building committee, involved with the accounts, were present at our request.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Keppel, the chairman.

ARTICLE 2 – The clerk reported that Brother J. Smit came to him on Saturday evening and that Smit took with him his book of accounts, with the inscribed sum of money which he had received, and declared that this was what Brother van den Berge had given to him. However, there were still other matters, which he wished to clear up; among them, that labor for placing wood in the wall needed to be paid for, at the price of the brick. The clerk reported further that he had asked Brother van den Berge if it was usual procedure to pay for installed wood at the same price as brick, which

was answered by Brother van den Berge in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3 – The chairman asked Brother J. Smit if the amount Brother van den Berge presented was in agreement with his figures. Smit replied in the affirmative, and then was asked if he had any additional comments, since the bill had twice been agreed upon, and accepted by him. Smit responded that the work of placing the wood in the wall for thresholds and framing had not been paid to him. This had been paid in connection with the parsonage of the Third Church and from the house of Mr. de Jong. Furthermore, payment was still due for some bricks and fieldstones and removal of sand from the cellar.

ARTICLE 4 – Smit was asked if he was satisfied with measuring the stones for the building, according to the contract. Smit had no interest in doing this, and implied that this could not be done with uncovered stone.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother van den Berge commented that the contract says that the stones were to be measured for the building on the basis of how many feet, and that the wood to be worked in the wall would not be reckoned for payment on the same basis as stone. Consequently, Smit had been paid his due. For removal of the stone, he was paid \$3.00, a sum which Smit and Klooster agreed to.

ARTICLE 6 – After discussing for a long time, a proposal was made and accepted that J. Smit is to give a written progress report and absent himself for a time, so that the assembly can make a judgment in this matter.

ARTICLE 7 – The assembly, having considered the matter, and taking into consideration that Smit wholeheartedly is of the opinion to be in the right, decided that for the wood and the entire advance should not cost more than \$6.00

ARTICLE 8 – It was decided to acquiesce completely in the request of Smit, and Mr. Schaddelee immediately paid him.

ARTICLE 9 – The meeting was informed that some individual has paid \$50.00. The question arose as to what to do with this money. Taking into consideration that the monies received are primarily owing on salary and that the consistory, because of financial stress, is not able to pay the promised salary of the last year to Dr. van Raalte, it was decided:

ARTICLE 10 – To pay this \$50.00 as an accommodation to Dr. van Raalte.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother ter Vree.

Keppel
Schader

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