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The Minutes of the Classis of Holland

Nella Kennedy

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29 June 1859

Holland, Michigan

The minutes of the Classis of Holland at which Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte is elected president since the formally elected president was absent. VR is an examiner in theology for the examination of W. A. Houbolt, a graduate of the Theological School in Kampen the previous year and called to serve the Dutch immigrant congregation in Grand Rapids.

In Dutch; translation by Nella Kennedy.

Minutes of the Classis of Holland, volume I, pp. 252 and 255.

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College.



HOPE COLLEGE

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with classis, he feels compelled to express his lasting bond with the brethren here, and to request that they will think of him in their prayers.

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Dr. van Raalte responds to his speech by expressing how inscrutable God's governing is. He also indicates to the pastor how important this move of brother van der Meulen can be with regard to maintaining communion with the brothers on the other side of the lake and also for the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Finally, on behalf of the classis Dr. van Raalte wishes the departing brother the blessing of the Most High. After singing Ps. 121:4, he closes with thanksgiving and prayer.

P.J. Oggel
Secretary

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CLASSICAL MEETING HELD IN HOLLAND, JUNE 29, 1859

Present

The following delegates are present:

- Drenthe Elders J. Wiggers and W. Kremer
- Graafschap Elders A. J. Neerken and G. Heemveld
- Grandhaven: The Rev. P. J. Oggel and elder. J. Mieras
- Grand Rapids: Elders G. Dalman and P. van Driele
- Holland: Dr. A.C. van Raalte, elders Broek and Ploeg
- Kalamazoo: The Rev. H. G. Klyn
- Noordeloos: Elder P. Bos
- Overisel: The Rev. G. J. Nykerk and elder H. Kleinheksel
- Polkton: No one
- Vriesland: The Rev. A. Zwemer and elder M. de Herder and de Groot
- Zeeland: Elders H. Krans and J. van Hees

Also present is the Rev. G. van de Wall, teacher at the Academy.

Presidency

Art. 1. Proposed at the absence of the president of the previous meeting that the Rev. Klyn, as the eldest in years, preside over the meeting until a president is chosen. After he has prayed, the brethren proceed to the election. It appears that Dr. van Raalte has been elected who then opens the session in prayer.

Founding of Congregations

Willem Allart Houbolt, called by the congregation of Grand Rapids to be its pastor, so that the examination by the brethren can take place.

Deputation to Synod

The Constitution of our church stipulates that at least one member of the synodical deputation is present for the examination. Since no one could be here, the scribe reports that the deputation of the classis Michigan has informed him that he did not need to come. Moreover, the Wisconsin deputy had intended to come. As far as the last named was concerned, unforeseen circumstances must have prevented his coming. During the discussion Mr. Chamberlain reports that even the classes of the Eastern churches, which are located so closely together, often ignore the article which stipulates the presence of a deputation when in need. After hearing this, it is resolved by the brethren

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that since the request to have two deputies of the pertinent classes be present was not satisfied, and since this also indicates that classis has obeyed the stipulation of the Church Order in principle, and since the congregation in Grand Rapids should not tolerate a longer delay, that the classis proceed to the examination of brother Houbolt.

Regulation

The pastors Van de Wall and Oggel, having been charged with the drafting of a concept of guidelines for examinations in the future, hand in the following report. This is approved.

	Examiners:
Hebrew	the Rev. G. van de Wall
Greek	the Rev. Phelps, after he comes here
Exegesis	the Rev. Oggel
Introduction to Sacred Scriptures	the Rev. van de Wall
History of the Bible	the Rev. Klyn
Church history	the Rev. Zwemer
Theology	<u>Ds. Van Raalte</u>
Pastoral work	the Rev. Oggel
Church polity	the Rev. Nykerk
Personal piety and calling:	the Rev. Klyn

Resolved at the same time, that, excepting the first two subjects, this guide will now be followed.

Preaching