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Meeting Minutes of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church

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J. Schrader

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28 May 1869

Holland, Michigan

Article five in the minutes of the consistory of the First Reformed Church reads as follows: "It was decided that the family of Rev. van Raalte will continue to use the bench they are presently using and to add another bench next to it, reserving this for Rev. Pieters."

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. 20 and 21a.

the task of negotiating (see Article 6 of the previous meeting) and Brother Broek was requested to immediately seek further information from Brother van den Berge.

ARTICLE 4 – A discussion took place concerning a earlier request by Brother Kamper to be relieved of his connection with the congregation. He presents various reasons for this request. It was decided, after having discussed the matter, to postpone this until the following consistory meeting. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Sprietsma.

H. Broek, president

J. Schrader, clerk

Consistory Meeting of May 28, 1869

Present were Brothers Broek, Kamper, van den Berge, Keppel, Geerlings, Sprietsma, ter Vree.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Keppel, and he was chosen as chairman.

ARTICLE 2 – A discussion took place concerning the Prayer Day service, and it was proposed to have a worship service with a sermon in the morning, and in the afternoon a period of prayer. These services are to be held in union with the Third congregation, and if they so desire, the prayer service will be held in the Third Church. Approved.

ARTICLE 3 – Brother Keppel was assigned the task of discussing the above proposal with the consistory of Third Church.

ARTICLE 4 – In harmony with the decision of Article 5 of the previous meeting, that matter is now on the table. Brother Kamper presents the reason and the objections which have led him to desire to be separated from this congregation in order to join Ebenezer. The other brothers, for the most part, agree that there are difficulties and objections, but they are not ready to acquiesce in his desire for the following reasons: 1) that Brother Kamper, at the organization of the Ebenezer congregation, had been told that he should join, but that, at that time, he had refused to do so; 2) that, after the congregation had been organized, he was reelected by the church and he accepted this. It was decided not to bind the brother on the ground of fairness, and that Brother Kamper should finish his term to the end of 1869. He, at that time, can resign. Brother Kamper understood the rationale and accepted it. However, he did ask that a statement of membership will be sent to Ebenezer on behalf of his wife and two children. This was accepted.

ARTICLE 5 – It was decided that the family of Rev. van Raalte will continue to use the bench they are presently using and to add another bench next to it,

reserving this for Rev. Pieters.

ARTICLE 6 – It was decided to leave the matter of regulating the catechism classes to the judgment of the ministers.

ARTICLE 7 – Brothers Vaupell and Geerlings were requested to make arrangements for a pad in the pews. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Sprietsma.

R. Pieters, chairman
J. Schrader, clerk

Consistory Meeting of June 11, 1869

Present were Rev. R. Pieters, Brothers Broek, Kamper, van den Berge, Keppel, Schrader, Geerlings, Sprietsma, Vaupell, ter Vree.

ARTICLE 1 – The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Pieters. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ARTICLE 2 – Brother Kamper, once again, gives to Rev. Pieters the reason for his request to be separated from this congregation. He indicates that he is willing to finish his term.

ARTICLE 3 – A request was made for transfer of membership of Piet Dogger to Grand Rapids. Approved.

ARTICLE 4 – Brother Keppel proposes to complete the work on the church porch, by including a covered deck. A committee, consisting of Keppel, Geerlings, and Schrader, was appointed.

ARTICLE 5 – Brother Broek informs the gathering that Sake Boonstra has requested baptism for his child. Brothers Broek and Keppel were appointed as a committee to speak with him. The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Broek.

R. Pieters, chairman
J. Schrader, clerk

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