

**Book of Minutes
of the
True Hollands Christian Reformed Congregation
in
Rochester, New York,
founded
September 13, 1877**

Form of Subscription

We, the undersigned ministers of the Divine Word, Elders, and Deacons of the Dutch Reformed congregation of Rochester, N.Y., belonging to the True Dutch Reformed Church in the United States of North America; as well as under the Classis of Hudson of the aforementioned Church, declare: sincerely and with a good conscience before the Lord! With this our signature, that we from our hearts feel and believe that all Articles and Points of Doctrine, included in the Confession and Catechism of the Dutch Reformed Church, as well as the explanation on certain points of the aforementioned Doctrine made in the National Synod of Dordrecht in the years 1618-19, fully correspond with God's Word: therefore we promise that we will diligently teach the aforementioned Doctrine and faithfully uphold it, without teaching or writing anything contrary to this Doctrine, either openly or secretly, directly or indirectly. As well as that we shall not only oppose all errors against this Doctrine, and specifically also reject those condemned in the aforementioned Synod (at Dordrecht in the years 1618-19); but that we are also inclined to refute them,

to contradict them, and to make every effort to keep them out of the Church. And if it should happen that we thereafter have any doubt or other sentiment against this Doctrine, we promise that we will neither openly nor secretly present, teach, or defend it through teaching or writing; unless we first disclose it to the Church Council, Classis, and Synod, to be examined there, being prepared at all times to willingly submit to the judgment of the Church Council, Classis, or Synod; upon penalty that by doing so we would be suspended (*ipso facto*) from our service. And if the Church Council, Classis, or Synod at any time, for weightier reasons of reflection, to preserve the unity and purity of the Doctrine, it seemed right for us to demand from ourselves a further explanation of our views on any Article of this Confession, the Catechism, or the declaration of the National Synod; (in the points of Doctrine.) Thus we also hereby promise that we are at all times willing and ready for this, under penalty (punishment) as above. Nevertheless, we retain the right of appeal in

case we might feel burdened by the judgment (Sentence) of the Church Council, the Classis, or Synod; during the period of appeal we shall content ourselves with the decision and judgment of the Provincial Synod.

Elders

Pastors

Deacons

Elders	Pastors	Deacons
<i>Ordeding</i> <i>A. de Jongh</i> <i>Harmon Jan pike</i> <i>Jacob de Witte</i> <i>Abraham Jansen</i> <i>A. R. Wierma</i>	<i>Predikanten</i> <i>J. M. Remme</i>	<i>Diaken</i> <i>J. M. Remme</i> <i>van Wijck</i> <i>huise</i> <i>J. W. Konneijde</i> <i>Abraham Jansen</i> <i>C. Boefink</i> <i>Joh. Smellie</i> <i>T. Boye</i>

**Brief report of the same, origin, beginning, and progress of the
True Dutch Reformed Congregation
in Rochester NY, North America.**

In the year 1867, Rev. W. van Leeuwen, who was then serving as a Minister of this church in Paterson, N.J., was invited by H. de Jongh, also on behalf of others from this place, to visit us and preach for us, which request was willingly accepted and fulfilled, with consideration of the decline of the Dutch Reformed Church; to which some had belonged or still belonged.

Whether it pleased the Lord to grant an opening for the formation of such a congregation in this place, adhering to the tried doctrine of our Fathers, established by the ever-illustrious Synod of Dordrecht 1618-1619.

This attempt was repeated several times, and by several Ministers of this Church, including the aforementioned and later now deceased Rev. D.J. van der Werps, Rev. L. Rietdijk, and Rev. J. Noordewier, the latter preaching here in the late summer of 1876. Thereupon, further investigation took place. This led to more research and commotion, until finally this spring some members separated from what is now the American Reformed Church, rented a meeting place, and then requested

Rev. L. Rietdijk from Patterson to visit them again and to take notice regarding our situation, and at the same time to convey our request to the General Assembly of this Church meeting in Chicago on June 3rd and the following days; containing a request to be examined, organized, and confirmed as a Congregation of this Church, which request was favorably accepted by the Reverend Assembly: and the Ministers Rev. K. van den Bosch and Rev. L. Rietdijk were appointed as a committee for this important work. Afterwards, we received a fraternal letter from Rev. L. Rietdijk with a proposal to postpone the matter until this fall; and all interested parties were called to meet on June 10th to fraternally consult about this proposal.

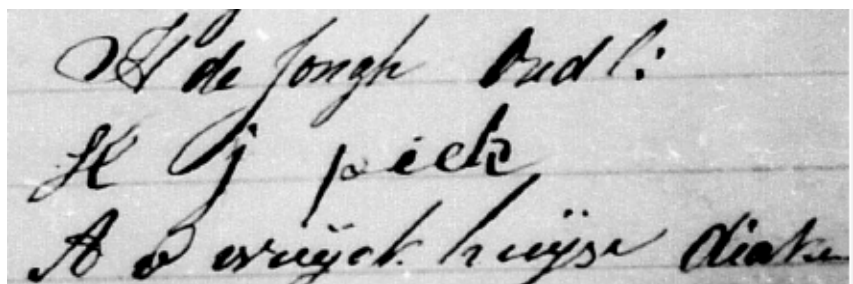
The meeting present, with invocation of the Lord's name, and seeking the Lord's guidance in this matter, reached a unanimous decision to request Rev. L. Rietdijk not to delay the matter, judging this to contribute most to edification and progress, and Mr. De Jongh was asked to explain this judgment and to invite or request Rev. Rietdijk on behalf of everyone to expedite. Whereupon we soon received a fraternal letter back

that, if it pleases the Lord, a beginning will be made with the matter by Rev. L. Rietdijk, intending to come to us on August 24 or 25 to make a provisional active start, expecting Rev. K. van den Bosch later, to jointly form the congregation here, etc. However, we were (very) disappointed in this by illnesses in Rev. van den Bosch's family which therefore left all the work to Rev. Rietdijk, who received, after a short time diligently engaged in this matter, a telegraph to immediately come home due to the sudden illness of (his) youngest child, who had already passed away before the Very Reverend arrived at the house. This serious visit once again caused a delay and postponement until the 13th of September, on which date the Very Reverend here established the True Dutch Reformed Congregation, consisting of 17 members. Thereupon, the election of Church Council members was immediately carried out, and the brothers H. De Jongh and H. J. Piek were elected as elders, and A. van Werijckhuijzen as deacon, and as such they were solemnly confirmed in their offices with the Congregation on the following day of rest.

Previously, on Friday evening, a preparatory sermon was preached, with the text chosen for this purpose: 1 Peter 2:7: *'Unto you therefore who believe, He is precious.'*

Whereupon, on the day of rest, Rev. Rietdijk, during the confirmation and the administration of the Holy Communion, preached on Ephesians 3:14, first part, *'For He is our peace.'* And in the afternoon during the thanksgiving, Romans 8:1, *'Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'*, etc., at the same time administering Holy Baptism to eleven children. And finally, concluding all this with much fruit and holy zeal, preaching in the evening with an exhortation to prayer to the new congregation from Jude verse 21, *'Keep yourselves in the love of God'*. The Very Reverend brought all this weighty work and preaching with particular cheerfulness and endowment of the Holy Spirit, and as we may confidently trust, not without special blessing and to everyone's satisfaction. And after having laid these holy bonds here, he left us with the wish of salvation from us all the next morning, Monday, September 14.

This report was read to the Church Council and signed on September 20, 1877.



Handwritten signature: H. de Jongh and others.

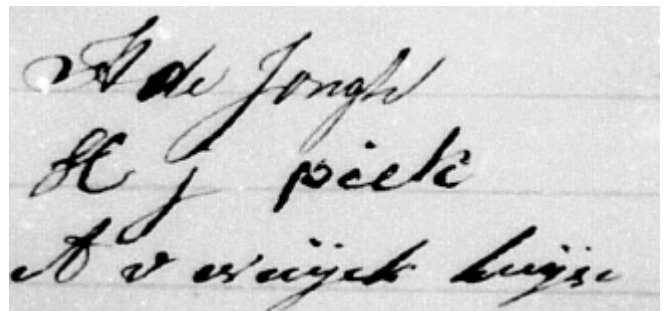
The Church Council met on September 18th, 1877.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by elder H. De Jongh. All members were present, as well as brother C. Boeijink, with the purpose of providing an account of the receipt and expenditure of the funds collected up to that time, whose administration had been kept by brother C. Boeijink until now. It would now pass on to brother deacon A. van Werijckhuijzen. It appeared that after settlement there was \$11.39 in the church's cash.

Collection for the cause of the missionaries was \$1.39. Collection for catechesis was just enough for tracts, etc.

At the same time, the previous report or history of this congregation was read by de Jongh and approved by those present, and it was decided at a following meeting to discuss how to proceed with the religious education of the children, etc.

Whereupon this meeting was concluded with a prayer of thanks by brother A. van Werijckhuijzen.



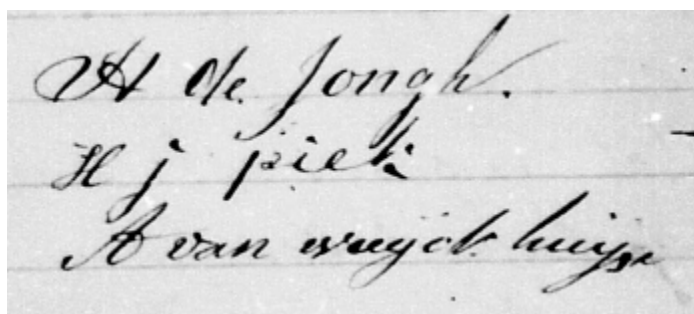
Handwritten signatures of H. de Jongh, H. J. Peck, and A. van Werijckhuijzen.

Church council meeting held on September 20, 1877.

Opened with prayer by elder de Jongh.

After reading the previous minutes, it was decided to send a piece for publication in our church magazine 'de Wachter' as a short report on the formation and confirmation of this congregation. Assigned to de Jongh.

Next, it was discussed how to proceed with the religious education of the children, through catechizing and holding Sabbath School, and for the time being the education was entrusted to brother H. J. Piek, and brother A. van Werijckhuijzen (who) would try to promote the Sabbath School. The meeting was concluded with a prayer of thanks by brother H.J. Piek.



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with three handwritten signatures in cursive script. The signatures are arranged vertically. The first signature is 'H. de Jongh.', the second is 'H. J. Piek', and the third is 'A. van werijckhuijzen'.