

State of Michigan  
Cathoon County

We, the undersigned, two of the Elders of the religious Society hereafter mentioned, do hereby certify and make known that heretofore and more than three months since under and in pursuance of an Act entitled "An act concerning churches and religious societies, establishing uniform rules for the acquisition, tenure, control and disposition of property conveyed or dedicated for religious purposes and to replace chapter fifty two of the Revised Statute" approved February 15 1855, a large number and more than five of persons of full age who desired to form themselves into such religious society, did assemble at the village of Battle Creek in said County and sign articles of association for that purpose, and that under and in pursuance of said Act the persons who subscribed did choose the undersigned to be Elders of such Society, that said Society celebrate divine worship according to the rites of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, and since signing said articles have steadily met on the Sabbath at Hakelus Hall in the village in said County where and when they have celebrated divine worship according to said rites, that divine worship was so celebrated by said Society at said place on <sup>the</sup> three Sabbaths, being the 13<sup>th</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 1856, and that on each of said days at said place when said Society was assembled for worship the ministers of said Society did publicly notify the congregation that proceedings would be had for an incorporation of said Society under said act and an election of Trustees be held at said Hall where was then assembled on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1856 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of that day; that at said time and place in pursuance of said notice and said articles, a number of the persons of full age who had signed said articles assembled and by a majority of votes nominated the undersigned to be inspectors of the election then to be held and to receive the votes and determine the qualifications of voters, and immediately thereafter at said place did select and by a plurality of votes by ballot elect William C. Jennings, Josiah Drake and William Bodine discreet persons and laymen and members of said Society and subscribers to said articles and being of full age as Trustees of said Society, that in virtue of our said nomination and of our offices as Elders we did act

as inspectors at said Election, did determine the qualifications of voters  
 receive and canvass the votes and determine and declare the result,  
 that at the time and place of said Election said voters did by a ma-  
 jority of their votes by ballot determine that said Trustees and their suc-  
 cessors should forever hereafter be called and known by the name of Trustees  
 of "The Trustees of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Battle  
 Creek", that the place of worship of said society is situated in the Village  
 of Battle Creek in the County of Walhoun and State of Michigan  
 and that said Society or Church nor said Trustees have ever before  
 been incorporated and that the above mentioned election is the first  
 election of Trustees by said Society.

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set our hands and  
 seals this thirty first day of July in the year of our Lord One thou-  
 sand eight hundred and fifty six at the village of Battle Creek aforesaid.

Signed and sealed in the  
 presence of  
 Edwin C. Lindeale  
 J. F. Grant

Samuel C. Jennings  
 Jacob Millepaugh

State of Michigan  
 Walhoun County

On the first day of August in the year of  
 our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty six before me a Justice  
 of the Peace of the Township of Battle Creek in said County at my  
 office in said Township, personally appeared Jacob Millepaugh and  
 Samuel C. Jennings to me well known to be the same persons who signed  
 and sealed and read the foregoing certificate, and respectively acknowledged  
 that they, severally, fully and of their own will executed, signed and  
 sealed the same, and that all the matters and things contained in  
 said certificate were of their knowledge true as therein set forth.

Recorded Aug 5th 1856.

J. S. Tracy  
 County Clerk

Benjamin F. Green  
 Justice of the Peace