

Minutes of the General Conference.

The General Conference of the Brethren in Christ in Conference, met May 16th, 1883, in the Brethren's Meeting House, at Black Creek, Welland Co., Ontario. After organizing by appointing Moderators and Secretaries, the following questions were considered and acted upon.

ARTICLE 1. Several letters handed in and read from Brother Owen Rothrock, setting forth the needy condition of the Brethren in Chambers' Valley, Va.

Resolved. That the several districts represented at this Conference, shall collect and send to Bro. David Engle of Mt. Joy, Lancaster Co., Pa., such amounts as may be collected, to be forwarded by him to Brother Owen Rothrock, as it may be needed.

ARTICLE 2. General Conference was asked to reconsider Article 2, Conference of 1874, as to whether said Article is in accordance with the word of God.

Decided. We believe it to be in accordance with the tenor of the Gospel.

ARTICLE 3. What shall be done with a Brother or Sister who violates Article 11, Conference 1880, and have and use musical instruments?

Decided. Admonish and readmonish in love and forbearance.

ARTICLE 4. The propriety of publishing a third edition of the Brethren' Hymn Books, considered.

Decided. That it shall be published as soon as practicable, and that each District shall take and hold in their hands such amounts as they may be likely to need for sometime to come and Brother David Engle of Mt. Joy, Lancaster Co., Penna., is appointed a Committee to attend to the work of publication, and Bro. Daniel Heise of Clarence Centre, Erie County, N. Y., is appointed with the assistance of Abram M. Engle, of Detroit, Dickinson Co., Kansas, and Laban W. Wingert, of Waynesboro, Franklin Co., Pa., to attend to making such corrections in the English Edition as may appear in metre and otherwise, not effecting any hymn in general. Abram Daner of Staner, Ontario, with the assistance of Jacob M. Engle, of Bainbridge, Lancaster County, Pa., were appointed to make the corrections in the German edition. The work of correcting all to be complete inside of three months.

ARTICLE 5. What shall be done with an Elder that moves out of a District, and afterwards visits said District and takes up with the kiss and preaches for persons that he helped to expel, and who afterwards connected themselves with another Church.

Decided. Shall be admonished and reconcile himself with the Brethren of the District in which he caused the offence.

ARTICLE 6. Conference asked to reconsider Article 1, Conference of 1882.

Decided. That the publication of the minutes be received from the hands of Brother Henry Davidson and allow them to be distributed and used by the brotherhood until the General Conference of 1885, at which time there shall be a complete revision and republication of the work.

ARTICLE 7. Missionary report of Bro. Abram Stoner handed in and approved.

ARTICLE 8. Are members allowed to learn and practice singing by note among themselves from house to house, if conducted in Christian order.

Decided. May be allowed if it can be carried on in Christian order and peace in the district.

ARTICLE 9. Will a member of the church be allowed to marry an expelled person?

Decided. Referred to Article 2, Conference 1874.

ARTICLE 10. When a brother is chosen as a minister, is it consistent for him to preach before he is examined. As to the soundness of his faith and ordained by the laying on of hands, and how soon may he be ordained after elected?

Decided. Referred to Article 13, Conference of 1878.

ARTICLE 11. May all the ministers of a District solemnize marriage, or should only one be appointed for that purpose.

Decided. That the Elder only shall solemnize marriages, unless he choose to deputize one or more ministers in the District in his charge to do so.

ARTICLE 12. How shall an Elder be chosen, by vote or lot.

Decided. That it shall be by vote only, except in cases of a tie, which shall be decided in the manner prescribed in Article 6, Conference of 1874.

ARTICLE 13. The Brethren in Canada desire the establishment of a Missionary Fund.

Decided. To postpone indefinitely.

ARTICLE 14. It is Resolved that the Brethren of Southern Michigan be admitted and recognized in this Conference as a District. Agreed to.

ARTICLE 15. A letter from Brother Fike, of Kan., setting forth his condition, presented and considered.

Decided. That the matter be referred to the Brethren of Dickinson Co., Kansas for disposal.

ARTICLE 16. Christian Bitner of Mulgrave, Ontario, is appointed a member of the standing Committee in place of Brother Wm. Huntsberg, whose term expires at this time.

ARTICLE 17. *Resolved.* That the Annual Conference of 1884, be held in Breckbill's Meeting House, North Franklin Co., Pa., commencing on the 3d Wednesday in May. R. R. Station and Post Office address, Greenvillage, on Baltimore & Cumberland Valley R. R.

ARTICLE 18. *Resolved.* That the Committee on Rail Road arrangements be continued.

ARTICLE 18. Brethren subject to call for Missionary work:

Jacob Krider, Annville, Lebanon County, Pa.
John Longenecker, Flerin, Lancaster County, Pa.
John Breneman, Martinsville, Lancaster County, Pa.
John Myers, Shepherdstown, Cumberland Co., Pa.
Martin Oberholtzer, Greenvillage, Franklin Co., Pa.
George S. Wingert, Fayetteville, Franklin Co., Pa.
T. A. Long, Howard, Centre County, Penna.
Jacob E. Mishler, Canton, Stark County, Ohio.
Elias Shrock, Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio.
Daniel Kohler, Winsor, Richland County, Ohio.
Samuel Herr, Iamton, Montgomery County, O.
Benj. Stump, Wilmot, Noble Co., Indiana.
Henry Shirk, Shannon, Carroll County, Illinois.
Jacob Garwick, Morrison, Whitside County, Ills.
Benj. Gish, Abilene, Dickinson Co., Kansas.
Henry Davidson, White Pigeon, Michigan.
Nicholas Michael, Shirkston, Ontario.
Samuel Baker, Gormnley, Ontario.
Benjamin Shup, New Dundee, Ontario.
John Baker, Nottaway, Ontario.
Isaac Detweiler, Lawndale, Bucks County, Penna.