

# MINUTES OF GENERAL CONFERENCE.

## THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST,

MET IN THE BRETHREN'S MEETING HOUSE NEAR

Shannon, Carroll Co., Ill., May 20th, 1885.

After organizing by appointing Moderators and Secretaries, the following questions were considered and acted upon.

ARTICLE 1ST.—If a member will not go according to Matthew, 18th Chapter, but speaks to others and not to the one guilty of trespass, what shall be done with such member?

DECIDED—Such an one becomes a transgressor, and shall be dealt with according to Matthew, 18th Chapter.

ART. 2—If a member's walk and conduct causes the church to be censured and will not hear the church, is it consistent with the word of God to ask a public confession of such.

DECIDED—According to Matthew, 18th Chapter.

ART. 3—Has a ministering brother a right to contradict a brother openly, after having addressed a congregation?

DECIDED—Not allowed.

ART. 4—At communion services, which is preferable, fermented or unfermented wine?

DECIDED—That the brethren are recommended as much as possible to secure the unfermented wine for communion services.

ART. 5—Shall the voting at Annual Council be done by the delegate only?

DECIDED—That the several districts, shall, at their councils instruct their delegates, to give their sentiments at next Annual council.

ART. 6—In regard to the question of intermarriage.

DECIDED—To adhere to the decision of 1843 and 1874, with this Amendment: That it shall be the duty of all Elders, Ministers and Deacons, to carefully instruct all unmarried members relative to this matter.

ART. 7—What shall the qualifications of members be to entitle them to letters of recommendation?

DECIDED—That members entitled to communion privileges shall have such letters.

ART. 8—How shall members be held who have no letters of recommendation?

DECIDED—To be held as in the districts they move from, and to secure such letters as soon as possible.

ART. 9—Has a District council, or have brethren of a local district power to overrule or dictate to the standing committee?

DECIDED—They have not.

ART. 10—Shall the expenses of Mission work in Michigan be paid out of the mission fund?

DECIDED—It shall.

ART. 11—Should Sabbath schools be encouraged among the brethren?

DECIDED—If properly conducted by the brethren, and nothing but God's word be admitted as the means to teach from, and no picnics or celebrations allowed.

ART. 12—Missionary report of Bro. Abram Stoner handed in and approved, and the church is urged to give and spend more liberally in that direction.

ART. 13—The committee on revision of Minutes of the several Councils made report, and Bro. Levi Lukenbach not being able to serve, the matter was left undone, and Bro. Henry Davidson appointed in place of Bro. Lukenbach.

ART. 14—Request of the Canada brethren for the Council of 1886.

DECIDED—That General Council of 1886 be held at Bro. John Wilfong's, on the 3d Wednesday in May, in Waterloo county, Ontario, Hespeler Station, Grand Trunk Railroad.

ART. 15—Brethren from several districts pray General council to appoint suitable brethren to visit the brotherhood in their families, and inquire into their standing as regards unity and oneness.

DECIDED—That six brethren be appointed to visit the brotherhood, and their expenses be paid out of the Mission fund, said brethren to prescribe the districts to each other, and see that above decision is carried out, and in case any can not serve to have the right to appoint others in their place. Committee: John Cassel, Joseph Hershey, Samuel Zook, David Engle, Henry Davidson, Samuel Baker.

ART. 16—Bro. Christopher Heise re-elected to the Standing committee.

ART. 17—Bro. Tobias Martin was appointed to prepare a Directory of the names of the brethren. All names shall be sent to him within sixty days by the delegates.

Brethren subject to Missionary work: John Cassel, Lower Providence, Pa.; Jacob Brubaker, Colebrook, Pa.; Jno. Wolgemuth, Elizabethtown, Pa.; S. E. Graybill, Martinsville, Pa.; David Nessley, Carlisle, Pa.; Samuel Hoover, Middle Spring, Pa.; Aaron C. Wingert, Ringold, Md.; T. A. Long, Howard, Pa.; Wm. O. Baker, Louisville, O.; Benj. Hoover, Mansfield, O.; Jeremiah Hoke, West Milton, O.; Michael Shirk, Goshen, Ind.; Isaac Trump, Polo, Ill.; Joseph Shirk, Florence, Ill.; Jacob Garwick, Morrison, Ill.; Jacob F. Eisenhower, Belle Spring, Kansas; Noah Zook, Ablene, Kansas; Henry Davidson, White Pigeon, Mich.; Abram Wingert, Springvale, Ont.; Fred. Elrit, Richmond Hill, Ont.; John Reichert, Fort Witch, Ont.; Wm. Klippert, Nottawa, Ont.