

# MINUTES OF GENERAL \* CONFERENCE OF THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST,

Held at the home of Bro. Cyrus Lenhert, near Abilene, Dickinson county, Kas., May 18, 19 and 20, 1887.

ARTICLE 1. The committee on revision and publication of Minutes of General Conference reported, and gave reasons for not having published the same.

*Decided:* That the report be approved and that the committee be exonerated for their variation from their instructions.

ARTICLE 2. The committee on Uniform Rules for Church Government reported.

*Decided:* That the report be accepted and adopted with slight amendments and that the committee be honorably discharged with the thanks of the church for their labors. \*

ARTICLE 3. The committee appointed by General Conference of 1886 to set forth the sentiment of the church on Sanctification reported.

*Decided:* That the report be received and approved and that the committee be exonerated from its duty.

ARTICLE 4. Report of the committee that was appointed by General Conference of 1886, for the purpose of adjusting doctrinal difficulties in Illinois and Ohio, during the past conference year.

*Decided, First:* That the report of the brethren who visited in Illinois be received and accepted.

*Second:* That this conference by voluntary contribution, defray the expenses of said brethren, and,

*Third:* That a committee be appointed to investigate the evidence in the case of dissatisfaction from Wayne Co., O.

BRO. SAMUEL ZOOK,  
BRO. JACOB STAUFFER, } Com.  
BRO JACOB ESHELMAN.

## THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We the committee appointed to investigate the evidence from Wayne Co., O., respectfully submit the following report to General Conference:

*First:* That in our humble opinion the Elder in charge of Wayne Co., should have a mild reproof from General Conference for sleighting its decisions in taking the affairs of Wayne County, and acting upon them after General Conferdnce had appointed a committee for that purpose.

*Second:* That a committee of two be appointed to visit Wayne Co., O., and investigate the troubles existing there, with full power to adjust the same.

SIGNED { SAMUEL ZOOK,  
JACOB STAUFFER,  
JACOB ESHELMAN.  
Committee.

Committee appointed to go to Ohio.—Bros. Samuel Zook and Jesse Engle.

ARTICLE 5. What shall be done with a brother who refuses to greet, with the kiss, brethren who use tobacco, and publicly protests against the use of fermented wine at communion services, neither will commune when it is used?

*Decided: First:* That General Conference instructs those offending brethren to put away their tobacco.

*Second:* That forbearance is recommended both on the part of the brother in question, and the church.

*Third:* That the brother be instructed not to protest publicly against the fermented wine.

ARTICLE 6. Request for General Conference of 1888, at Gravelton, Elkhart county, Ind., on the B. & O. R. R., granted.

For all desired information, address Elder Martin Hoover, Goshen, Ind.

ARTICLE 7. A petition from the church of Michigan to consider the propriety of publishing a religious paper was considered.

*Decided:*—To accept the preamble and resolutions of General Conference of 1880, to publish a monthly, semi-monthly or weekly church paper as a test for a term of four years, then to be re-considered by General Conference, either to confirm, amend or reject it by a congregational vote.

[ DANIEL HEISE, Clarence Co., N. Y.,  
S. E. GRAYBILL, Martinsville, Pa.,  
Com. { W. O. BAKER, Louisville, Ohio,  
SAMUEL ZOOK, Abilene, Kansas,  
HENRY DAVIDSON, White Pigeon, Mich.

ARTICLE 8. A request from Columbus mission, Ohio to relieve Bro. Kunkle (an old minister) of an indebtedness of \$642.

*Decided:*—That the amount be raised by voluntary contribution throughout the church, and that it be sent to Bro. Jno. W. Myers, Etna, Licking County, Ohio, inside of sixty days from date.

ARTICLE 9. Report of the brethren who visited in Indian Territory. The brethren reported very minutely the particulars of their visit, showing the necessity for mission work among the Indians.

*Decided:*—*First:* That we heartily support an attempt in that direction.

*Second:* That a committee of three brethren be appointed for the purpose of ascertaining more specifically the locality in which, and the means by which such an enterprise shall be conducted, and that they shall report to next General Conference.

BROS. JESSE ENGLE,  
S. E. GRAYBILL, } Committee.  
ABRAM MEANS.

ARTICLE 10. Missionary report of Canada, by Brother Jacob Eyer, was submitted and approved.

ARTICLE 11. *Decided:*—That the committee appointed to publish the Minutes of General Conference, be instructed to publish the minutes of all the Conferences since 1870, together with the minutes and all the church work executed at this council.

ARTICLE 12. *Decided:*—That Bro. Benjamin F. Hoover, of Mansfield, O., be appointed a member of the Standing Committee in the place of Bro. Joseph Hershey, whose term has expired.

ARTICLE 13. *Decided:*—That the deacons throughout the whole church be instructed to make a personal appeal to each member of their respective districts, for some contribution to the mission work of the church at least once a year.

\* In "Uniform Rules for Church Government" (which will soon be published) is included a system of representation by delegates at General Conference, only as a test, however, for a term of three years, (until General Conference of 1890) at which time Council shall affirm, amend or reject the system by a congregational vote.