

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

HELD AT THE BRETHREN'S MEETING HOUSE NEAR GRANELION, ELKHART COUNTY, IND., MAY 16th, 17th and 18th, 1888.

THE COUNCIL WAS REGULARLY ORGANIZED BY ELECTING MODERATORS AND SECRETARIES, AFTER WHICH THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES WERE CONSIDERED AND DISPOSED OF:

ART. I. DECIDED, That a member who has been divorced from his matrimonial companion, and subsequently expelled from the church, may again be received into the church, provided that such member has thoroughly repented, and that the former companion be dead.

ART. II. DECIDED, That the present system of communication with railroad companies be repealed.

ART. III. DECIDED, That one brother be appointed to arrange the business pertaining to rates with railroad companies, for General Council. Said brother shall serve for a period of three years.

Bro. Ambrose Miller, of No. 427 South Broadway, Dayton, Ohio, was nominated by the Moderator and confirmed by the Council as such agent. Decided, also, that the church be requested to submit to the arrangements which shall be made by Bro. Miller.

ART. IV. A request from Markham district, Canada, for the next General Conference, was considered.

DECIDED, That the next General Conference of the Brethren convene in the Markham district in Ontario, Canada, on the third Wednesday of May, 1889. The meeting will be held in the Brethren's meeting house, near Richmond Hill, which may be most conveniently reached on the Northern Railway.

ART. V. Will the general council allow the general mission funds to be used otherwise than was the original intent, as was done in the general church visit of 1886?

DECIDED, That in complying with Article 15, of the conference of 1885, the council violated a previous decision of that same body, and that council hereby pledges itself to be more careful hereafter.

ART. VI. Will the church allow members to go to public exhibitions, such as the Grangers' picnics, fairs, etc., in order to exhibit and sell manufactured products?

DECIDED, That members are not allowed to attend such places, unless by special consent of the church in the district in which such member lives.

ART. VII. DECIDED, That the censure recorded against Bro. Joseph Hershey, in the council of 1887, be rescinded.

ART. VIII. In regard to the case of Bro. Kunkle's indebtedness,—

DECIDED, That the delegates present be instructed to present the matter to their respective districts and solicit donations to make up the deficiency—\$451.10. As \$200 of this amount is needed now, conference insists that this matter be attended to immediately.

ART. IX. A report of the church board of publication which was submitted by Bro. O. W. Baker, was accepted by conference, and on nomination of the chairman, Bro. Samuel Baker, of Gormley, Ont., and Bro. David Engle, of Mt. Joy, Pa., were elected additional members of the board of publication.

ART. X. What shall be done with the offending members of Whiteside county, Ill.?

DECIDED, That General Council delegate the power to act in the difficulty, according to Mathew (18), to the elders of Illinois.

ART. XI. Are brethren allowed to wear a full beard?

DECIDED, That brethren shall exercise forbearance and try to keep in order.

ART. XII. The report of the committee appointed by the General Council of 1886 to settle differences between a brother of Illinois and one of Ohio, was submitted.

DECIDED, That the matter be referred back to the committee, with the explanation that General Council did not mean to assume any responsibility as to the finance involved.

ART. XIII. What more can be done to facilitate the mission work of the church?

DECIDED, That two ministers be elected by General Conference to act as traveling missionaries for the coming conference year, who shall be subject to the direction of the Board of Missions. Said brethren shall be supplied substitutes to take charge of their affairs at their homes, if the district in which they live so direct. Brothers T. A. Long, of Howard, Pa., and Noah Zook, of Abilene, Kas., were duly elected by the General Conference. Decided, also, that after an examination these brethren be ordained to this special work by the laying on of hands.

ART. XIV. Is it consistent for members to have the photographs of their buildings taken?

DECIDED, That it is not consistent.

ART. XV. May a brother be ordained to the ministry who is conformed to the world in his outward apparel and appearance?

DECIDED, That he may not.

ART. XVI. Who shall bear the expenses incurred by Brothers Samuel Zook and Jesse Engle in their visit to Ohio last summer?

DECIDED, That the amount (\$61.50) be apportioned, by the secretaries, among the several districts in the United States.

ART. XVII. On motion of Brother O. W. Baker the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That all monies to be raised in the several districts for the relief of brethren or sisters in needy circumstances, or the payment of contracted debts, or of monies lost by indorsement or otherwise, shall not be brought to General Council hereafter, but that all such wants shall be disposed of in the districts in which they occur by the church of such district. In the event of special financial misfortunes in any district, the delegate or delegates of such districts shall have the right to come before the council at any time suitable and state such case, and raise all that can be raised by voluntary Christian giving without taking any time of the regular Conference session.

ART. XVIII. The missionary report of Bro. Abram Stoner for the United States was submitted and approved.

ART. XIX. The missionary report of Bro. Eyer, of Ontario, Can., was submitted and approved.

ART. XX. The report of Brothers Abram Means and Jesse Engle, on their visit to the Indian Territory, was approved. On motion of Bro. Henry Davidson a committee was appointed to conduct correspondence with the government officials to ascertain what encouragement or financial support can be secured for the church from the government, and report to the next General Conference. And to act as such agent for the church, Bro. Jesse Engle, of Belle Springs, Kas., was elected.

ART. XXI. A request to have two elders ordained in Morrison's Cove, Blair County, Pa., was considered.

DECIDED, That two elders from other districts be appointed to call a Council in Blair County and proceed according to instructions of General Conference. Brothers Samuel Zook and Martin Oberholser were appointed to carry out such mission.

ART. XXII. DECIDED, That Bro. David Climenhaga, of Stevensville, Ontario, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Standing Committee caused by the expiration of Bro. Bitner's term.