

# MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

### OF THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST,

(Commonly known as "River Brethren"), held at Highland Meeting House, in Miami County, O., May 21-23, 1890.

The Conference was called to order promptly at the hour appointed, 10 o'clock, by the retiring moderator, Bro. Jesse Engle, who, after a few appropriate remarks, proceeded with the regular organization of the conference, which resulted as follows:

Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kansas.

First Asst. Moderator, Elder Henry Davidson, White Pigeon, Mich.

Second Asst. Moderator, Elder Jesse Engle, Belle Springs, Kansas.

Reading Clerk, Bro. Jeremiah Hoke, West Milton, Ohio.

Secretary, Daniel Heise, Clarence Centre, New York.

Asst. Secretary, John H. Engle, Chapman, Kansas.

Bro. Zook, the Moderator-elect, proceeded, formally, to open Conference by the reading of Ephesians 4: 1-16, and making appropriate remarks.

The following Districts reported through their Delegates:

I. Markham, Ontario, District. 1. Henry Heise, Minister.

II. Donegal, Pennsylvania, District. 1. David Engle, Minister. 2. Michael Musser, Deacon.

III. Cumberland, Pennsylvania, District. 1. John H. Myers, Minister.

IV. North Dickinson, Kansas, District. 1. Samuel Zook, Elder. 2. Samuel Bert, Deacon.

V. Maryland, and South Franklin, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Aaron Wingert, Elder. 2. George Wingert, Elder.

VI. North Franklin, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Martin Oberholser, Elder. 2. John Zook.

VII. South Dickinson, Kansas, District. 1. Jesse Engle, Elder. 2. John Mellinger, Elder.

VIII. Stark County, Ohio, District. 1. Joseph Hershey, Elder. 2. Dr. W. O. Baker, Minister.

IX. White Pigeon, Mich., District. (Including Carland Mission) 1. Henry Davidson, Elder.

X. Shannon, Illinois, District. 1. Henry Shirk, Minister. 2. Abraham Myers, Minister.

XI. Indiana District. 1. David Akin. 2. James Brown.

XII. Richland and Ashland, Ohio, District. (Including Paulding Mission.) 1. Benjamin F. Hoover, Elder.

XIII. Whiteside, Illinois, District. 1. Henry Garwick, Deacon.

XIV. Polo, Illinois, District. 1. Isaac Trump, Elder.

XV. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Jacob Kreider, Elder. 2. Samuel Books, Minister.

XVI. Black Creek, Canada, District. 1. Abraham Winger, Elder. 2. Daniel Heise, Minister.

XVII. Waterloo, Ontario, District. 1. John Wilfong, Minister.

XVIII. Morrison's Cove, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Henry S. Miller, Minister.

XIX. Wayne County, Ohio, District. 1. Samuel Longenecker, Minister.

XX. Manor, Pennsylvania, District. 1. John Peiffer, 2. Simon E. Graybill, Minister.

XXI. Rapho, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Isaac Detwiler, Minister. Daniel Wolgemuth, Minister.

XXII. Dayton, Ohio, District. 1. Peter Hause. 2. John Burkholder. 3. Daniel Boyer. 4. Benjamin Cassel. 5. Jacob Dohner.

XXIII. Benton and Dallas Counties, Iowa, District. 1. Isaacs Trump, Elder. (by proxy.)

XXIV. Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, District. 1. Jacob G. Cassel (appointed by Conference.)

Conference adjourned.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference was called to order promptly at one o'clock, by the Moderator.

Unfinished business was the order of the hour. The matter of representation at General Conference by delegates (Conference of 1887, Kansas) was made the special order for Thursday morning, 9 o'clock. Conference then passed to reports of standing committees.

The committee on the revision of the articles on the "Lord's Supper," written by Bro. Jesse Engle and published in the *Evangelical Visitor*, submitted a majority report by its chairman, Bro. W. O. Baker, in which the above articles are recommended for publication in pamphlet form; also, a minority report by Bro. Daniel Heise wherein he took exception to the above articles in two points.

On motion the reports were accepted for consideration by Conference and a committee of five brethren appointed with instructions to justify the differences and report to Conference on Friday morning of this session. Committee:—1. Henry Davidson. 2. John Wilfong. 3. S. E. Graybill. 4. David S. Engle. 5. Isaac Trump.

The committee appointed to revise the series of articles on baptism, written by Bro. W. O. Baker, and published in the *Evangelical Visitor*, reported through its chairman, Bro. Daniel Heise. The report was accepted and made the special order for Thursday of this session at one o'clock.

The missionary report of the Brethren in Canada, by Bro. Jacob Eyer, was accepted and approved.

The general missionary report of the church, by Bro. Abraham Stoner, was submitted by Bro. Saxon Bowers. The report was accepted and approved.

Bro. Stoner's term of office having expired by virtue of the action of general conference (at his own request) a year ago, he was honorably discharged by the adoption of the following resolution, offered by Bro. W. O. Baker:

RESOLVED:—That the Church, by its representatives in council, expresses its thanks to Bro. A. Stoner for his faithful services as Secretary and Treasurer of the Missionary Board for nineteen years, and, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the council.

On nomination of several churches, and a hearty endorsement by Bros. Stoner, Baker, Davidson and others, Bro. Saxon Brown, of Canton, Ohio, was unanimously chosen successor to Bro. Stoner as Secretary and Treasurer of the general Mission Board.

In consequence of a complaint filed, it was decided: That it is inconsistent for members to hold weddings according to the custom of the world in making a display, both in setting tables and presenting gifts.

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED:—That the petition endorsed by General Conference of 1889 for the erection of a house of worship at Carland, Mich., be returned to the church at large, urging further aid: and, that the deacons of the several districts that have not responded, take immediate action to collect the same.

THURSDAY FORENOON.

After a half hour praise service conducted by Bro. W. O. Baker, the Conference was opened by the Moderator at 8 o'clock.

The special order of the hour being the delegate system of representation in Conference, Bro. Baker moved to adopt the system now in force and given in "Church Government."

It was moved to amend by striking out the clause, "And in addition to the above representation the Elders, Ministers and Deacons are, and shall be considered members of the general council." After much discussion the amendment was lost. The original motion was then carried.

After a recess of fifteen minutes, council again convened, and took up the case of Bro. John Myers of Carland, Michigan, Mission. On motion, Bro. Henry Davidson, of White Pigeon, Mich., and Bro. Samuel Baker, of Gormly, Ontario, were appointed a committee to dispose of the case. Council adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Council was duly opened by prayer and singing. On motion, Paulding Mission, Ohio, was assigned to the oversight of Elder Benjamin Hoover for at least another year.

The chairman then announced the special order of business: The discussion of the report on Bro. Baker's series of articles on "Baptism.". The report of the committee endorsing the papers as written was adopted.

On motion, the chairman was empowered to appoint a committee of three to conduct the publication of the above matter in pamphlet form. The Council appointed the following committee:

1. W. O. Baker, Louisville, Ohio, Chairman. 2. Jesse Engle, Belle Springs, Kansas. 3. Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kansas. Recess.

A request from the church of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, for general council of 1891, was unanimously granted. The meeting will be held in the Mastersonville meeting house near Colebrook Station on the Lebanon and Cornwall R. R. Delegates coming from the west will change cars at Harrisburg.

Bro. C. Heise, of Victoria Square, Ontario, was re-elected a member of the Standing Committee for five years.

Then followed a number of addresses by Bros. W. O. Baker, Isaac Trump, Jesse Engle, Henry Davidson and others on the painful lethargy of the church in mission work. The general church was urged to support nobly the ministry in their efforts to disseminate the gospel.

On motion of Bro. Myers it was unanimously decided to establish a mission in the City of Chicago. On motion of Bro. Heise it was agreed to supply from the benevolent fund as many copies of the VISITOR (to one hundred) as the local members of the Chicago mission can use to advantage. All members are urged to contribute very liberally to this fund.

Postponing further discussion of mission work, Council adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING.

After a pleasant testimony and praise meeting conducted by Bro. Hoover, of Mansfield, O., council resumed business at 8 o'clock.

Bro. Henry S. Miller, delegate from Morrison's Cove District, was excused from council at his own request.

After the announcement the special order for the hour was taken up.

Bro. Isaac Trump, on behalf of the committee appointed to pass upon the articles on the Lord's Supper, submitted the following report:

We, the committee appointed by General Conference to examine points of difference on articles on the Lord's Supper do unanimously agree: 1st. That the first Passover was observed on the beginning of the fourteenth day of the first month, and, 2d, that the memorial service of the bread and cup is the communion, and that the full meal we eat is not sacred.

ISAAC TRUMP, Chairman.

S. E. GRAYBILL, Secretary.

On motion of Bro. Baker, the report was unanimously adopted.

On motion the entire series of articles was endorsed and recommended for re-publication.

The work was assigned to the above committee on re-publication of Bro. Baker's articles.

On motion the committee was instructed to prepare, in connection with the above articles, another on the washing of the saints' feet.

At this point a number of very effective exhortations and some timely explanations were made by several brethren.

After another short intermission the Conference listened to a most encouraging report of the board of publication on *Evangelical Visitor*, submitted by Bro. Graybill. The report was accepted.

The indebtedness of our old brother, Jacob Kunkle, was relieved, a committee being appointed to assign the quota to the respective districts of the church.

After the usual announcements Conference adjourned.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference convened at 12:45 o'clock. On motion Bros. S. E. Graybill and Henry Davidson were chosen to draft a tribute of respect to the memory of our departed Elders, Henry Rosenberger, Benjamin Shelly and John Stoner. They reported as follows:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in his providence to call from their respective fields of labor and from active duties in the church during the past year, Elders John Stoner, of Morrison's Cove, Henry Rosenberger, of Bucks County, Penna., and B. B. Shelly, of Lancaster County, Penna., therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we deeply deplore the loss of so active and valuable workers in the vineyard of the Lord, yet we bow in humble submission to the will of God, believing that our loss is their eternal gain.

The requests from Iowa for visits during their lovefeasts were referred to Elders Isaac Trump and Joseph Shirk, the expenses incurred to be charged to the general mission fund.

Pending the report of a committee selected to report on the mission work, a most enjoyable half hour was devoted to miscellaneous worship.

The above committee reported as follows:

We, the committee appointed by Conference to set forth the attitude of the church on Mission work, would recommend for another year the system used during the past two years, and exhort the church to take the matter of enlarging the mission work into serious consideration.

Signed, ISAAC TRUMP, Ch'm'n Com.

On motion it was ordered that the delegates defray the expenses of Bro. A. J. Miller, incurred in making arrangements with the railroad companies.

The first session of the afternoon was closed by an appropriate exhortation and prayer by our beloved Elder and father, Levi Lukenbach.

After a short intermission Conference resumed a general discussion of the mission question. As a result it was

DECIDED: That a committee of twelve be appointed, to serve during life or good conduct, with instructions to report fields of labor and workers to the Board of Missions, and that their work be subject to general conference, to which body they shall report annually.

The following committee was appointed: 1. Henry N. Engle, Belle Springs, Kansas. 2. Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kansas. 3. Martin Oberholser, Culbertson, Penn. 4. Simon E. Graybill, Martinsville, Penn. 5. T. A. Long, Howard, Penn. 6. Benjamin F. Hoover, Mansfield, O. 7. Abraham M. Engle, Little York, O. 8. Daniel Heise, Clarence Centre, N. Y. 9. Michael Shirk, Goshen, Ind. 10. Abraham Myers, Freeport, Ill. 11. W. O. Baker, Louisville, O. 12. John Hawbaker, Waukee, Ia.

The Conference throughout was one in which Christian charity prevailed in an unusual degree, and most fitting indeed was the last session closed by a chorus of voices singing "Blest be the tie that binds."

DANIEL HEISE, Secretary.

SAMUEL ZOOK, Moderator.