

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

(Commonly known as "River Brethren,") held at Mastersonville Meeting House,
in Lancaster county Pa., May 20-23, 1891.

The Conference was called to order by the retiring Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook, who, after a few appropriate remarks, proceeded with the regular organization of the Conference, which resulted as follows:

Moderator, Elder Martin Oberholser, of Franklin county, Pa.

First Asst. Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kansas.

Second Asst. Moderator, Elder Henry Davidson, White Pigeon, Michigan.

Secretary, S. E. Graybill, Martinsville, Pa.

Asst. Secretaries, T. A. Long, Howard, Pa., A. J. Miller, Dayton, O.

Bro. Oberholser, the Moderator-Elect, proceeded, formally, to open Conference by reading the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians, and after appropriate remarks the following districts reported through their Delegates.

I. North Dickinson county, Kan., Samuel Zook, D. H. Brechbill, J. M. Sheets, Samuel Page.

II. South Dickinson county, Kan., David Book, Eli Hoffman, Benjamin Gish.

III. Harvey county, Kan., S. Shirk.

IV. Markham, Ont., Peter Steckley.

V. Donegal, Pa., Martin Musser, Henry Musser, John Longenecker, Aaron Martin, John Wolgemuth.

VI. Cumberland, Pa., John B. Engle, John Niesley, A. S. Gottshall.

VII. South Franklin, Pa., Geo. M. Wenger, Abraham Wenger.

VIII. Iowa, Isaac Trump.

IX. White Pigeon, Mich., Henry Davidson.

- X. Shanon, Ill., Abraham Myers.
- XI. Montgomery and Bucks county, Pa., Joseph B. Detwiler, Geo. Tyson.
- XII. North Franklin county, Pa., Martin Oberholser, John Zook, Joseph Burkhardt.
- XIII. Stayner, Ont., Alex McTaggart.
- XIV. Richland and Ashland, B. F. Hoover.
- XV. Whiteside, Ill., A. G. Zook.
- XVI. Polo, Ill., Isaac Trump.
- XVI. Lebanon and Dauphin county, Pa., Jacob R. Krider, Daniel B. Brubaker, S. E. Brehm.
- XVIII. Black Creek, Ont., Peter Rodes.
- XIX. Waterloo, Ont., John Reichard.
- XX. Morison's Cove, Pa., Peter Keagy.
- XXI. Indiana, M. Shirk.
- XXII. Manor, Pa., Henry Heisey, Abraham Hess, Christian Hostetter.
- XXIII. Rapho, Pa., Isaac Detwiler, David Wolgemuth, Daniel Wolgemuth, Abram Gipple.
- XXIV. Dayton, O., J. B. Wingert.

Decided by a rising vote to defer the unfinished business (namely the "Evangelical Visitor") until the 21st to be discussed at 9 a. m. and vote taken the following afternoon.

ARTICLE 1st. Inasmuch as there are extant publications that teach the doctrines of the mortality of the soul, restitution, soul-sleeping, annihilation, probation after this life, etc., and

WHEREAS, The church of the Brethren in Christ believes these doctrines to be contrary to sound Gospel principles pernicious and misleading, be it therefore

Resolved, That the members are warned against the dangers of imbibing these doctrines, and are requested to discard the reading of all such literature, and especially a publication called "The Prophetic Age," in which, though there be many beautiful bible truths, there is so much error in the direction named that the church deems it unsafe to read, or for any christian parent to introduced into his family. And since the church holds the doctrine of the immortality of the soul and its connections to be essential to an orthodox christian faith, be it further

Resolved, That brethren who partake of the doctrine of the mor-

tality of the soul and kindred doctrines, cannot be ordained to office in the church.

Decided that this council heartily indorse above resolutions.

ARTICLE 2ND. How can church property be sold? Decided that Bros. Isaac Trump, of Ill., Abraham Hess, of Penn'a., John Engle, of Penn'a., be appointed a committee to report on the same.

ARTICLE 3RD. A petition from Carland Mich., for a minister. Decided that Elder Samuel Baker of Markham, Ont. be appointed to supply them through the Board of Missions.

ARTICLE 4TH. That the Oakwood Paulding county O. Mission pray council to send elders there to organize a church. Decided that the following committee be sent: Joseph Hershey, J. B. Wingert, and B. F. Hoover. of Ohio.

ARTICLE 5TH. Report from Bro. Jacob, Eyer, Secretary and Treasurer of Canada Mission accepted and approved.

ARTICLE 6TH. The report of the publication committee accepted and approved.

ARTICLE 7TH. At the Council of 1887, held at the house of Bro. C. Lenhart, near Abilene, Kan., it was decided to accept the preamble and resolution of General Conference of 1880 to publish a periodical as a test for a term of four years then to be reconsidered by General Conference, either to confirm, amend, or reject by a congregational vote.

Decided by a congregational vote to continue the publication of the same, viz: the "Evangelical Visitor."

ARTICLE 8TH. A request from Black Creek, Ont., District for the Council of 1892, granted. Railroad station Stevensville on the N. Y. Central and G. T. Railroads.

ARTICLE 9TH. Bro. J. M. Engle's term as a member of the standing committee expires this Conference year, decided that he be re-elected.

ARTICLE 10TH. The board of publication prays conference to relieve them of their duties encumbent during the past four years.

Resolved, That the church by its representatives express its thanks to the board for their faithful services and that this resolution be placed upon the minutes of the council and that the same board be re-instated.

ARTICLE 11TH. The general Missionary report of the Church by the Treasurer Bro. Saxton Bowers was submitted.

Balance in Treasury at council 1890.....	\$190.12
Receipts during the year.....	552.89

743.01

Expenses during the year.....	172.67
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Balance in Treasury..... 570.34

The report was accepted and approved.

ARTICLE 12TH. An appeal from Bro. Jno. E. Hawbaker, of Iowa, for service through the mission board, Elder Isaac Trump of Polo Ill., to continue in charge and under the board of Missions.

ARTICLE 13TH. A request from brethren of Bucks and Montgomery county, Pa., that at the General Council, the Moderator shall not serve two successive years. Decided to continue the present system of electing Moderators and Assistants.

ARTICLE 14TH. The report of the committee on the sale of church property received with amendment that it can be sold by the consent of the trustees, the proceeds to be at the disposal of the General Conference.

ARTICLE 15TH. A petition from the Illinois brethren to General Council to provide means by way of a house of worship, etc., to carry on the mission work in Chicago, Ill. Decided that the Mission Board support the cause generally as far as possible with the present means.

WHEREAS. Our Christian friend D. A. Walter of Latrobe, Pa., has donated to the church of the Brethren in Christ the sum of \$200, therefore,

Resolved, That the church in conference assembled, tenders her heartfelt thanks to him for this token of his interest in the welfare of the church and the spread of the Gospel, and that this resolution be placed upon the minutes of the council, and

Resolved, That as \$100 of this amount was appropriated for the "Evangelical Visitor," that the balance \$100 be used for the publication of some pamphlets on baptism and the Lord's supper, the proceeds of the last \$100 to be used for missionary purposes.

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. As there is yet unpaid \$350.00 we again urge those to respond who have not yet paid. Address Chas. G. Baker, Carland, Michigan.