

MINUTES  
— OF THE —  
GENERAL CONFERENCE  
— OF THE —  
BRETHREN IN CHRIST,  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS "RIVER BRETHREN,"  
— HELD AT —  
STEVENSVILLE, ONTARIO, MAY 18 - 20, 1892.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

After an hour's devotional service, the Conference was formally opened by the retiring Moderator, Elder Martin Oberholtzer of Culbertson, Pa. The organization resulted as follows:

Moderator, Elder Samuel Baker of Gormley, Ont.; First Assistant Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook of Abilene, Kansas; Second Assistant Moderator, Martin Oberholtzer of Culbertson, Pa.; Reading Clerk, Daniel Heise of Clarence Centre, N. Y.; Secretary, George Detweiler of Sherkston, Ont.; Assistant Secretary, Jno. H. Engle, Navarre, Kansas.

The several districts of the church were represented as follows:

- PENNSYLVANIA: *Cumberland District*—John B. Engle, John H. Myers.  
*Donegal District*—John M. Wolgemuth, M. B. Musser, Henry M. Gish, Daniel Heise, Jacob Hershey.  
*South Franklin District*—George Wingert, Abraham S. Leshner.  
*North Franklin District*—Martin Oberholtzer, Abraham Wengert.  
*Dauphin and Lebanon District*—Levi E. Hershey, Daniel Funk.  
*Rapho District*—Isaac Detweiler, Daniel Wolgemuth, Samuel Garver, Levi Brandt, Frank Heistand.  
*Morrison's Cove District*—Isaac Stern.  
*Manor District*—Henry Heise, Christian Hostetter.
- OHIO: *Dayton District*—Jacob B. Wingert.  
*Richland and Ashland District*—Benjamin F. Hoover.  
*Wayne District*—Samuel Longenecker.
- CANADA: *Markham District*—John Boyer, Abraham Winger, Peter Dohner, Levi Heise.  
*Waterloo District*—Samuel Wanner.  
*Notawasaga Mission*—Isaac Baker, Samuel Baker.  
*Black Creek District*—Daniel Heise, Asa Bearss.
- ILLINOIS: *Whiteside District*—A. G. Zook.
- KANSAS: *North Dickinson District*—Samuel Zook, Henry Davidson, D. H. Brechbill.  
*South Dickinson District*—Joseph Fike, Jacob N. Engle, Levi Thuma, Jno. H. Engle.

The regular business of the Conference was now taken up. The reports from the different churches were submitted and read by the clerk.

On motion of Elder Samuel Zook, the question from the Kansas Conference, relating to church evangelists, was made the special order for preliminary discussion at the opening of the afternoon session. The session was closed with prayer.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The session was opened promptly at one o'clock, and after a short devotional service, led by Bro. Martin Oberholtzer, Conference proceeded to business. The special order of the hour was introduced by Bro. S. Zook. After considerable discussion the matter was postponed to Friday morning for final disposition.

On motion a committee was appointed to report upon the mutual official relations of Church Officers, with instructions to report Friday forenoon.

Committee—Samuel Baker, Martin Oberholtzer, Isaac Detweiler, Daniel Heise, Jacob N. Engle.

On motion of Bro. B. F. Hoover, the oversight of the Arizona Mission was assigned to the church in Kansas, the expenses thus incurred to be defrayed from the general mission fund.

On motion, it was decided to hold the Conference of 1893 at Chadwick, Illinois.

Fifteen minutes intermission.

A request from Brown County, Kansas, desiring the church to substitute the "single mode" of feet-washing for the mode now in use, was dropped.

On motion Elders H. Davidson and Samuel Zook, and Bro. Asa Bearss, were appointed a committee to draft a model form for performing marriage ceremonies, with instructions to report during the sessions of this Conference.

Conference adjourned.

#### THURSDAY MORNING.

The morning devotional service was especially inspiring. Conference opened at 9 o'clock. The minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

The question from Black Creek district relating to the "Patrons of Industry" was discussed briefly. On motion it was decided that, since this organization sustains many of the essential elements of other secret organizations, it can receive no endorsement whatever at the hands of the church. (See also, Art. 4, Conference of 1880).

The question from Chicago regarding mission work in that city was now introduced for discussion. The conditions to be met in sustaining city missions, both favorable and unfavorable, were freely discussed. On motion of Bro. Samuel Zook and seconded by Bro. B. Gish, it was decided that this Conference encourage mission work in Chicago, to the extent of sustaining a suitable place for worship as soon as acceptable workers can be procured.

The Polo (Ill.) district sent the following question: "Is it allowable for our ministers to use a ritual at the grave on funeral occasions?" The matter is left optional with the individual ministers, since the church has no set form to propose.

The editor and Board of Publication of the Evangelical Visitor submitted their reports.

The editor's report disclosed the fact that during the fiscal year closing May 1st, 1892, the subscription list increased from 1551 to 1703.

The report was unanimously adopted.—Conference adjourned.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference convened at 1 o'clock and resumed consideration of the reports of the morning session, the report of the Board of Publication being the order of business.

The indebtedness of the board on May 1, 1892, was \$341.28. On motion of B. Gish, the one hundred dollars known as the "Walter Fund" were appropriated toward the relief of this debt. The board, upon their own request, were granted the privilege of soliciting free-will offerings from the friends of the "Visitor" throughout the Church for the purpose of liquidating the balance of the indebtedness.



Several plans for the future management of the paper were submitted from several sources. The one proposed by the board itself was unanimously adopted. It provides for certain specific retrenchments in the regular expenses, also, that upon receipt of a sufficient sum of money the board may proceed to purchase type and other necessary office equipments, and have the press work done by contract.

On motion, the committee on ritual for marriage ceremony was given one year's time to report.

Bro. Saxon Bowers, treasurer of the General Mission Fund, submitted an itemized report of the treasury :

Balance on hand, May 18, 1891 .....	\$ 570 84
Receipts during the year.....	374 21
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 945 05</b>
Disbursements during the year .....	252 23
<b>Balance in the treasury, May 18, 1892.....</b>	<b>\$ 692 82</b>

The report of Bro. Jacob Eyer, treasurer of the Canada Mission Fund, was read and approved :  
Balance in the treasury in May, 1891 :—

Cash and securities.....	\$2657 52
Note of hand.....	1825 00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$4482 52</b>
Receipts during the year.....	187 63
<b>Grand total .....</b>	<b>\$4670 15</b>
Disbursements during the year.....	168 40
<b>Balance on hand, May, 1892.....</b>	<b>\$4501 75</b>

The Mission at Carland, Michigan, renewed their request for a minister of the gospel. The name of Bro. George Detweiler was proposed.

The local church disapproving strongly of Bro. Detweiler's removal on account of home needs, his name was dropped.

Bros. H. Davidson, B. F. Hoover and John Boyer were appointed a committee to propose some plan for complying with the above request. Committee to report in Friday's session.

On motion of Bro. H. R. Heise it was decided that the expenses incurred in serving the Eastern Michigan Mission be borne by the church in Canada.

The report of the committee on Relations of Church Officers was submitted by its secretary, Bro. D. Heise.

The following is the report, which was unanimously adopted :

*Dear Brethren :—*

We, your committee appointed to consider the question from Kansas relating to the mutual official Relations of Church Officers, would report as follows :

First,—That officers of the church locating in organized districts shall not exercise the authority of their respective offices without the consent of the church in such district.

Second,—That in case of a vacancy among the officers of an organized district, other official brethren moving or having moved into such district shall not have authority therein except by action of the church in said district.

D. HEISE, Secretary.

SAMUEL BAKER, Chairman.

The committee appointed to supply Carland Mission reported as follows :

That H. R. Heise of Victoria Square, Ont.; D. Heise of Clarence Centre, N. Y.; Asa Bearss of Ridgeway, Ont.; J. W. Hoover of South Cayuga, Ont., and Geo. Detweiler of Sherkston, Ont., supply mission for one year under the supervision of Elder Samuel Baker of Gormley, Ont.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference resumed consideration of the proposition to place evangelists in the general mission field. On motion of Bro. B. Gish the matter was deferred for one year.

The report of Bro. B. F. Hoover, regarding the Paulding, O., Mission, was accepted and approved. The mission is placed in charge of Elders B. F. Hoover and J. B. Wingert during another year.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

On motion of S. Zook, contributions were solicited from the respective districts for the publication of a set of articles on "Baptism," "The Supper," and "Feet-washing," in pamphlet form.

The responses were as follows:

N. Dickinson district . . . . .	\$ 25 00
S. Dickinson district . . . . .	25 00
Whiteside district . . . . .	15 00
Waterloo district . . . . .	10 00
Dayton district . . . . .	15 00
Lebanon and Dauphin district . . . . .	5 00
Markham district . . . . .	10 00
Richland and Ashland district . . . . .	5 00
Elkhart district . . . . .	10 00
Cumberland district . . . . .	10 00
Nottawasaga district . . . . .	5 00
Morrison's Cove district . . . . .	15 00
Brown Co., Kansas (Samuel Zook) . . . . .	5 00
N. Franklin district . . . . .	10 00
Stark Co. district . . . . .	25 00
Wayne Co. district . . . . .	5 00
Daniel Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont. . . . .	5 00
Total . . . . .	\$200 00

All districts are requested to remit to Dr. W. O. Baker, Louisville, Ohio, within 60 days.

On motion Bro. B. F. Hoover of Mansfield, Ohio, was re-elected a member of the Standing committee for another term.

Bros. Davidson and Oberholtzer address Conference in a few fitting closing words of exhortation, and with the closing prayers there was ended a most helpful and pleasant Conference.

GEO. DETWEILER,  
Secretary.

SAMUEL BAKER,  
Chairman.