

MINUTES
—OF THE—
GENERAL CONFERENCE
—OF THE—
BRETHREN IN CHRIST,
COMMONLY KNOWN AS "RIVER BRETHREN."

—HELD AT—
CHADWICK, ILL., MAY 17-19, 1893.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

After devotional service, the Conference was formally opened by the retiring Moderator, Elder Samuel Baker of Gormley, Ont. The organization resulted as follows:

Moderator, Martin Oberholtzer of Culbertson, Pa.; First Assistant Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook of Abilene, Kansas; Second Assistant Moderator, Elder Henry Davidson of Abilene, Kansas; Reading Clerk, J. R. Zook of Chadwick, Ill.; Secretary, Geo. Detwiler, of Sherkston, Ont.; Assistant Secretary, Jonathan Wert of Carlisle, Pa.

The several districts of the church were represented as follows:

PENNSYLVANIA: *Cumberland District*—Jonathan Wert, Abraham Nissley.
South Franklin District—A. Leshner, G. S. Wingert, J. D. Wingert.
Rapho District—Isaac Detwiler, Dan'l Wolgemuth.
Donegal District—John Wolgemuth, David Engle, Sr.
Manor District—Jonas Hoffman, Henry Heisey.
Dauphin and Lebanon District—Jacob Kreider.
North Franklin District—C. B. Gish, John Zook, M. Oberholtzer.
Morrison Cove District—Andrew Stoner.

ONTARIO, CANADA: *Black Creek District*—D. V. Heise, Geo. Detwiler.
Markham District—C. Heise, S. Baker.

KANSAS: *North Dickinson District*—Samuel Zook, H. Davidson, E. H. Martin.
South Dickinson District—S. B. Wingert, Benjamin Gish.

OHIO: *Ashland and Richland District*—S. Whisler.
Dayton District—J. B. Wingert, A. M. Engle.
Stark Co. District—W. O. Baker.

ILLINOIS: *Whiteside District*—J. R. Zook.
Shannon District—Joseph Sherk.
Polo District—Isaac Trump, C. Stoner.

IOWA: *Dallas District*—John E. Hawbaker.
Benton District—Andrew Gnagy.
The session was closed with prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The session was promptly opened at one o'clock, and after a short devotional service led by Elder S. Baker, the regular business of the Conference was proceeded with.

The question relating to the placing of Evangelists in the Mission field, which was laid over by last year's conference for further consideration this year, was the first matter to engage the attention of Conference. After considerable discussion it was decided, on motion, to defer the further consideration of the matter until Thursday afternoon.

The Russian immigration aid fund which failed of being fully realized as it was hoped, received considerable attention, and on motion it was decided to let the matter rest as it is, not to be brought up again at any future Conference.

The supply of Church Hymn Books being exhausted, requests for a new supply were preferred by several districts.

On motion it was decided to issue a new edition of the book as it now is, without any change.

On motion it was decided that the Brethren S. E. Graybill and Abraham Hess, be a committee to have the new edition of Hymn Books published and bound, ready for distribution.

Conference adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The morning session was promptly opened at eight o'clock by some appropriate remarks by Elder H. Davidson, and prayer.

On motion, it was decided that the several districts determine within ninety days how many copies of the hymn-book they want, as well as the style of binding wanted, and communicate same to the appointed committee so as to enable it to proceed with the work. Communications to be addressed to either S. E. Graybill, Martinsville, Pa., or Abraham Hess, New Danville, Pa.

On motion, it was decided to substitute for Art. 8 of Con. of 1873, the following:

That in the organization of General Conference, henceforth all the members of the Conference present—that is, all church officers with the delegates,—have a right to vote, instead of delegates only.

In answer to the question preferred by the Kansas Brethren, whether in case the Gospel Tent should be operated outside of the State of Kansas, the expenses would be borne by the General Church? it was decided that the matter be left to rest for one year; the Kansas Brethren in the meantime operating the tent as they may decide.

On motion, it was decided to appoint three brethren who shall act in connection with the Elders in charge—B. F. Hoover and J. B. Wingert—as a committee to investigate and finally dispose of certain irregularities existing in the Paulding, Ohio, Mission.

The brethren thus appointed are Samuel Whisler, A. M. Engle and W. O. Baker.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The session was opened by a short devotional service, after which the Evangelist question was again resumed for final disposal.

The decision arrived at was favorable to such a project, namely, to place Evangelists into the Mission Field.

A question as to whether a church officer can be ordained, when the wife cannot be present on account of infirmity, was decided in the affirmative, providing the wife has been properly visited and there exists no hindering circumstance.

Reconsidering or repealing Art. 10 of Council of 1889:

Decided, on motion, to make no change in said article.

The report of Bro. Jacob Eyer, treasurer of the Canada Mission Fund, was read and approved:

Balance in treasury in May, 1892.....	\$4,501 75
Receipts during the year.....	20 01
Total.....	\$4,521 76
Disbursements during the year.....	\$ 147 46
Balance on hand May, 1893.....	\$4,374 30

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

Balance on hand May 18, 1892.....	\$ 692 82
Receipts during the year.....	548 94
Total.....	\$1,241 76
Disbursements during the year.....	273 68
Balance in the treasury May 18th, 1893.....	\$ 968 08

FRIDAY MORNING.

The session was opened by a short season of social service, after which the report of Bro. Saxton Bowers was finished and adopted.

The Working Missionary Board gave in its report through its Sec., D. V. Heise, which was adopted, and also the following recommendations preferred by said Board:

1st. That the Chicago Mission be maintained and supported, the expenses being paid out of the General Mission Fund, and that the work be placed in charge of Bro. A. L. Myers of Freeport, Ill., who will devote his entire time to it.

2d. That Bro. A. L. Myers and the Brethren living in the city take the necessary steps to secure a suitable hall for public worship, as well as a residence for Bro. Myers.

3d. That Bro. Jacob N. Martin of Elizabethtown, Pa., be placed in the Mission field as a special laborer for the coming year, and that the church through its Mission Board select from time to time an associate to go with him and assist him in the work.

4th. That this council recommends the Church in each State where the membership is sufficiently strong to resolve itself into a Home Mission District to bear the expenses of work properly belonging to it, similar to the method pursued by the Kansas Church.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Elder in charge of Carland, Mich., Mission, S. Baker, gave a statement of the affairs of said Mission, and on motion it was decided that the Mission still remain under the same supervision the ensuing year, and that Bro. Geo. Kitely of Yale, Mich., supply the preaching appointments. The expenses to be met as last year.

The Council would further recommend to hold a love-feast there the coming fall, but it is left to be proceeded with at the discretion of the Elder in charge.

Decided that the Paulding, O., Mission be continued under the same supervision and supported same as last year.

The report of the committee on ritual for performing marriage ceremony appointed by Con. of 1892, was read, and the form proposed by the committee was, with slight correction, adopted.

The Editor and Board of Publication of the Evangelical Visitor submitted their reports, which were quite favorable, and on motion were adopted.

The Editor made a strong plea in behalf of the Visitor, urging its claim of a more generous support, increased efforts to increase its circulation, the appointing of persons in each district or neighborhood to report church news, deaths, &c., and invited all to help make it interesting by freely contributing suitable articles for its columns.

On motion, it was decided to hold General Conference of 1894 in Dickinson Co., Kansas. R. R. Station, Abilene.

This finished the regular business of what proved to all a meeting of interest, and we hope of profit.

Some appropriate concluding remarks by the Moderator, and prayer, and the Conference of 1893 belongs to the events that are past.

GEO. DETWILER,
Secretary.

MARTIN OBERHOLTZER,
Moderator