

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Brethren in Christ,

COMMONLY KNOWN AS RIVER BRETHREN,

HELD AT

Detroit, Kansas, May 16 to 18, 1894.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 16.

After the devotional service the Conference was formally opened by the retiring First Assistant Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook, of Abilene, Kansas. The organization resulted as follows: Moderator, Elder J. M. Engle, of Hancock, Pennsylvania; First Assistant Moderator, Elder Samuel Zook, of Abilene, Kansas; Second Assistant Moderator, Elder Henry Davidson, of Abilene, Kansas; Reading Clerk, J. H. Eshleman, of Sedgwick, Kansas; Secretary, S. E. Graybill, of Martinsville, Pennsylvania; Assistant Secretary, D. V. Heise, of Clarence Centre, New York.

The several districts of the church were represented as follows:

PENNSYLVANIA.—Cumberland District—John B. Niesley, Henry Heisey; South Franklin District—Henry H. Heisey, John D. Wingert; Rapho District—Daniel Wolgemuth, Henry B. Hoffer, John P. Ginder, Abram Bradley; Donegal District—J. M. Engle, J. N. Martin; Manor District—Henry L. Heisey, S. E. Graybill; Dauphin and Lebanon District—Jacob K. Kreider; North Franklin District—Samuel Hoover, Abram Wingert; Morrison's Cove District—Andrew Stoner; Lykins Valley District—Jos. D. Keefer.

KANSAS.—North Dickinson District—Samuel Zook, Henry Davidson, Samuel Bert; South Dickinson District—Cyrus Lenhert, L. C. Wenger, Noah Hershey; Brown County District—Christian Haldeman; Clay County District—William Kiner; Harvey County District—Joseph M. Eshleman.

OHIO.—Dayton District—J. B. Wingert.

ONTARIO, CANADA.—Abram Winger, D. V. Heise, David Climenhaga; Markham District—H. R. Heise.

ILLINOIS.—Polo District—Henry L. Trump; Shannon District—H. L. Shirk; Whiteside District—J. R. Zook.

IOWA.—Dallas District—Harrison Garwick; Benton District—Andrew Gnagy.

ARIZONA.—Stephen Richardson.

ARTICLE 1ST.—On motion it was decided to reconsider Article 1st, Conference of 1891. The morning session was closed with prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 16.

The session was promptly opened at 1:30 o'clock, and after a short devotional service led by Elder J. B. Wingert the regular business of the Conference was proceeded with. On motion to repeal Article 1st, as above given, after due discussion it was decided not to be repealed. Further, on motion, a committee consisting of J. H. Eshleman, H. N. Engle, and S. E. Graybill was appointed to define the term Restitution, and report to this conference. Report of committee:

Resolved, That since the term Restitution as it stands in the preamble is intended to explain the doctrine of the mortality of the soul and not the restoring of a thing wrongly appropriated, no change be made in the wording of said article.

H. N. ENGLE,
S. E. GRAYBILL,
J. H. ESHLEMAN,
Committee.

In answer to the question: "Is it allowable for Brethren to hold public offices," it was decided allowable under the restrictions of the church. On motion the Moderator appointed a committee of five, consisting of S. E. Graybill, Saxton Bowers, Henry L. Trump, Noah Zook, and H. R. Heise to decide what those restrictions should be, and report to this Conference. Report of committee:

"We would respectfully submit the following: Inasmuch as we believe that there is great danger in opening the door for Brethren to hold public offices indiscriminately; and inasmuch as the church is located under different governments, therefore we would submit the matter to the careful and discriminate consideration of the several districts, and since we, the committee, cannot point out the various offices which Brethren might hold under the different forms of government where they are located, we would advise that Brethren should not allow themselves to be used in public offices for fear of becoming involved in political strife, which is contrary to the faith of the church on conscientious scruples.

S. E. GRAYBILL,
H. R. HEISE,
H. L. TRUMP,
SAXTON BOWERS,
NOAH ZOOK,
Committee.

Is it consistent for members to remain seated and Brethren keep their hats on during prayer on funeral occasions of relatives? Answer: Not consistent. Conference adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 17.

The session was promptly opened at 8 o'clock by appropriate remarks and prayer. The Carland Mission was first taken into consideration and decided that the same arrangement for the Mission be continued for this conference year as was advised for last year; that Brother George Kitely, of Yale, Michigan, visit them every four weeks and preach for them, and that Elder Samuel Baker, of Gormley, Ontario, be requested to visit them at least twice during the year and remain not less than three weeks each time; also, that there be an Elder appointed by

this Conference to assist Elder Samuel Baker in setting the Mission in order. On motion Elder J. B. Wingert, of North Hampton, Ohio, was appointed. Their expenses to be paid out of the United States General Mission Fund.

On motion it was decided to hold General Conference of 1895, in the church at Nottawa, Ontario, Simcoe county; railroad station, Stayner.

On motion it was decided that a brother cannot be ordained to office in the church who wears his hair closely shingled. On motion it was decided that a person, not a member of the church, if such person give evidence of true conversion and love to the Brethren, call for the Elders of the church, may be anointed with oil in the name of the Lord according to James II-14.

The report of Brother Jacob Eyer, treasurer of the Canada Mission Fund, was read and approved with the advice of General Conference that more effectual work be done during this conference year:

Balance in treasury May 7th, 1893.....	\$4,624 00
Receipts during the year.....	240 50
<hr/>	
Total.....	4,864 50
Disbursements during the year.....	67 41
<hr/>	
Balance on hand.....	4,797 09

Brother Saxton Bowers, treasurer of the United States General Mission Fund, submitted an itemized reported of this year's receipts and disbursements:

Balance in treasury May 18th, 1893.....	\$ 968 08
Receipts during the year.....	377 87
<hr/>	
Total.....	1,345 95
Disbursements during the year.....	378 61
<hr/>	
Balance May 17, 1894.....	972 34

On motion the report was approved and accepted.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON MAY 17.

The session was opened with a short devotional service and prayer. The order of electing church officers was reconsidered. On motion it was decided to appoint a committee of five to act upon and report to next General Conference: Elders Samuel Baker, Gormley, Ontario; Jacob M. Engle, Hancock, Pennsylvania; Jacob B. Wingert, North Hampton, Ohio; Isaac Trump, Polo, Illinois; Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kansas. On motion it was decided to continue the Paulding county, Ohio, Mission under the same arrangement as last year; to be sustained by the United States Mission Board. On motion it was decided to submit the General Mission work to the Working Missionary Board to formulate a plan upon which to carry on the Mission work for this Conference year. On motion it was decided to appoint Brother J. B. Knupp to fill the place on the Working Missionary Board vacated by Brother John Hawbaker, deceased. Conference adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 18.

After a season of social service and Bible reading the session was promptly opened at 8 o'clock. The report of the committee appointed by last year's Conference to publish a new edition of Hymn books was submitted. On motion the committee's report by Brother S. E. Graybill was approved and accepted, and a vote of thanks tendered the committee for their efficient services.

The Working Missionary Board submitted its report with the following recommendations which were approved and accepted: First, The Chicago Mission Work was taken into consideration. On motion it was decided that we recommend to General Conference that the Mission Work in Chicago as approved by General Conference of 1893 be accepted and supported by the General Mission Board to be carried on as will be most effectual, and as soon as a competent worker can be found and approved by the General Mission Board.

On motion it was decided to engage more in General Mission work, and that the following Brethren are selected for this Conference year: Brethren Jacob N. Martin, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania; A. M. Engle, Little York, Ohio; H. L. Trump, Polo, Illinois; J. H. Eshleman, Sedgwick, Kansas. This board further recommend that more effectual work shall be done this Conference year, and while the above Brethren are called to the work we do not intimate that other Brethren shall not engage in General Mission work.

D. V. HEISE, Secretary.

SAMUEL ZOOK, Chairman,

The question from Dayton, Ohio, in regard to members attending fairs, expositions, or other places of worldly amusement was referred to Article 6, General Conference of 1888.

On motion it was decided to organize a Foreign Mission Fund, and appoint a treasurer. Brother Jacob E. Stauffer, of Newton, Harvey county, Kansas, was duly appointed.

Editor and Board of Publication of the Evangelical Visitor submitted their reports which were favorably received, and on motion were accepted. The report of the financial condition of the Evangelical Visitor shows an outstanding indebtedness due the Visitor of about \$500, and we earnestly appeal to all who are thus indebted to send in their amount due at their earliest possible convenience.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 18.

The session was opened with the usual devotional services and prayer. On motion Brother Christian Bitner, of Mulgrave, Ontario, was elected a member of the standing committee for the term of four years, and Elder Henry Davidson, of Abilene, Kansas, for the term of five years. On motion it was decided to offer union in the General Mission work of the United States and Canada. Thus concluded the regular business of this Conference, which proved to all a very pleasant and helpful meeting, and we trust of much profit to the church. With appropriate closing remarks by the Moderator and earnest prayer the Conference of 1894 was closed, and goes out into the history of the church as one of the joyful events that were.

S. E. GRAYBILL,
Secretary.

J. M. ENGLE,
Moderator.