

MINUTES

—OF THE—

GENERAL CONFERENCE

—OF THE—

Brethren in Christ,

—HELD AT—

VALLEY CHAPEL,

—NEAR—

Canton, Ohio,

MAY 19-21, 1897.



DAYTON, OHIO:
J. K. GRAYBILL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1897.

The Brethren in Christ met at Valley Chapel, Stark County, Ohio, May 19th, 1897.

The Conference was opened by singing and prayer, and a short address by the retiring Moderator, Elder Martin H. Oberholser, of Culbertson, Pa.

The organization was as follows: Elder H. Davidson, of Dayton, Ohio, Moderator; Elder Samuel Zook, of Abilene, Kan., and Elder Martin H. Oberholser, of Culbertson, Pa., Assistant Moderators; Brother A. J. Miller, of Dayton, Ohio, Secretary; Brother H. L. Trump, of Polo, Ill., and Brother John B. Neisley, of Carlisle, Pa., Assistant Secretaries.

The next in order was the reading of Scripture, viz., the 12th chapter of Romans, by the Moderator elect, followed by the reading of the minutes of the Conference of 1896.

The Church was represented by delegation as follows:

Elder Peter Keagy, Morrison's Cove District, Pa.

Elder Jacob Kreider, Lebanon County, Pa.

Brother S. E. Brehm, Dauphin County, Pa.

Brothers M. B. Musser, A. Martin, Jacob Martin, A. C. Hess and H. B. Musser, East Donegal, Pa.

Brothers Samuel Hoover, John Zook, J. S. Lehman and Martin H. Oberholser, North Franklin County, Pa.

Elder George Wingert, Fayetteville, Franklin County, Pa.

Elder A. S. Leshner, Greencastle, Franklin County, Pa.

Elder H. L. Heisey and Brother C. Hostetter, Mannor District, Lancaster County, Pa.

Elder John A. Stump, Elkhart District, Ind.

Brothers I. Detwiler, D. Wolgemuth, H. Huffer and B. Shelly, Rapho District, Lancaster County, Pa.

Brother A. Wingert, Black Creek District, and Brother Wm. Klippert, Markham District, Ontario.

Brother George Hiller, Morrison, Ill., and Brother H. L. Trump, Polo, Ill.

Elder Samuel Zook and Brother B. Engle, North and South Dickinson County, Kansas.

Brother J. H. Smith, Wayne County, Ohio.

Elders J. B. Wingert and Henry Davidson, Brothers Moses Dohner, S. L. Herr and Jacob Ulery, Dayton (Ohio) District.

Elder B. F. Hoover and Brother Samuel Whisler, Richland and Ashland Counties, Ohio.

Brother H. Angelmoyer, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania.

Brother Jacob Brechbill, DeKalk County, Ind.

Dallas Center District, Iowa, was represented by letter.

Brother John B. Neisley and Elder Jonathan Wert, Cumberland County, Pa.

ARTICLE I. On motion by Elder Samuel Zook, the question of electing a member to the Board of Publicaton was presented, to fill the vacancy of Brother S. E. Graybill, whose term expires with this conference year. Brother S. E. Graybill was re-elected.

ART. II. A request from Brother Henry Hornberger (who moved to Minnesota) to be retained under the supervision of the Kansas Church. His request was granted.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

One half hours' devotional services, led by Brother John H. Myer, of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

ART. III. A request for financial aid by Brother Owen Rothrock, of Missouri.

Decided: That he remain under the care of the church in Kansas, as they deem wise and proper, and that they have the privilege to call on other districts if necessity demands.

ART. IV. A request from the Arizona Mission for financial aid for church building purposes.

Decided: That each district shall appoint a brother to solicit voluntary subscription for their aid and remit to C. C. Burkholder, Glendale, Arizona.

ART. V. A petition from Kansas Joint Council to grant Brother Jacob Stauffer, of Harvey Co., Kansas, permission to present his case relative to church funds, to General Conference.

Decided: That the \$400.00 now in question be given back to the Trustees, viz., Bros. Jacob Stauffer, \$150.00; J. Landis, \$125.00; H. Dividson, \$125.00. To be used for church or charitable purposes.

ART. VI. A petition from Des Moines, Iowa, praying conference to consider the propriety of establishing a World's Missionary Training Home, for the the benefit of those who are called of God to do missionary work.

Decided: To postpone the question until some future time.

THURSDAY MORNING.

A short time was spent in devotional services led by Brother A. M. Engle, of little York, Ohio.

ART. VII. A petition from Des Moines, Iowa, Mission, for the publication of the *Evangelical Visitor* to be located there, as it has remained unchanged during this conference year.

Decided: To rescind the decision of Council of 1896, viz., (To remove the publication of the *Evangelical Visitor* from Abilene, Kansas, to Harrisburg, Pa.) And after counseling as to the propriety of changing the location, it was decided by the Board of Publication, and confirmed by the Council to remain where it is this conference year.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

A short devotional service led by Brother Joseph Free, of Forgy, Ohio.

ART. VIII. A request from Des Moines, Iowa, viz., Is it safe to compensate missionaries, Home, or Foreign, out of the church treasury more than actual necessities while in service by appointment?

Decided: No.

ART. IX. A petition from Markham and Nottowasaga, Ont., asking, Shall we have the rules of faith and practice (as understood by the brethren), printed in pamphlet form, and also put in short form in the *Visitor*? Postponed indefinitely.

ART. X. A petition from Garrett, Ind, with the signature of eighteen members to make it a mission district, which was granted by the Elkhart District.

Decided: That they shall remain under the present supervision.

ART. XI. A petition frm Markham, Ont., for the conference of 1897. Granted, and will convene the third Wednesday

in May. All communications addressed to Elder Samuel Baker, Gormley, Ont.

ART. XII. A petition from Joint Council of Eastern Pennsylvania, signed by twenty members, on account of certain so-called differences in missionary workers, in the manner of conducting services, which has caused some offence among the brethren. After careful counseling, the matter was mutually settled with Eph. 4th chapter and 1, 2, 3, and 31 and 32.

ART. XIII. A petition from Polo, Ill., to change the present mode of feet washing to the single mode. Referred to former decisions.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Song and devotional services from 7:30 to 8:00, A. M., led by Brother Abraham Winger, of Edgely, Ont.

ART. XIV. Elder B. F. Hoover, of Mansfield, Ohio, was unanimously re-elected a member of the standing committee, whose term expired with this conference year.

ART. XV. A vote of thanks was tendered Brother H. N. Engle, of Abilene, Kansas, editor of the *Visitor*, for his service during the last seven months.

ART. XVI. In answer to an informal petition from certain brethren in Kansas, it was decided that the chairman appoint a committee of three brethren to go to Kansas and adjust the difficulties. The committee appointed is as follows: Elders Henry L. Heisey, Washington Boro, Pa., M. H. Overholser, Culbertson, Pa., B. F. Hoover, Mansfield, Ohio.

ART. XVII. The report of the Board of Foreign Missions was presented as follows:

REPORT.

At a meeting of the Boards of Foreign Missions held at the house of Bro. Bechtel, on Thursday evening, May 20th, the following report and resolutions were presented and adopted subject to the approval of conference:

Report of the amount of money in the hands of the treasurer of Foreign Missions to date, \$693.46.

Four candidates presented themselves for the Foreign Mission Field, and have been accepted as follows: Elder Jesse Engle, and Sister Elizabeth Engle, his wife, of Donegal, Kansas; Sister H. Frances Davidson, Abilene, Kansas, and Sister Alice Heise, Hamlin, Kansas; and if approved by conference it is recommended that they should be ready to start for their field of labor as early as September or October; provided, that sufficient means are at hand to pay their

passage to their place of destination, which means are to be raised by voluntary contribution as the Lord directs and to be sent directly to the address of each of the missionaries.

The Board recommends that to complete the number of workers there should be one more added to the number in the person of a brother as an assistant to Brother Jesse Engle.

The Board further recommends that the conference now in session select some well qualified brother to fill the vacancy occasioned by Bro. Jesse Engle on the Foreign Mission Board. Bro. W. O. Baker was appointed to fill the vacancy, (provided, Bro. Engle should go); all of which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL ZOOK, Treasurer.

HENRY DAVIDSON, Chairman.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, the members of the General Board of Foreign Missions present, have accepted and approved the report of the Operating Board and submit the same to conference for their approval.

M. M. SHIRK, Goshen, Indiana.

SAMUEL WHISLER, Ashland, Ohio.

A. M. ENGLE, Little York, Ohio.

M. H. OBERHOLSER, Culbertson, Pa.

Decided by a unanimous vote of Council: To accept the report, and confirm the action of the Board. Elder W. O. Baker, of Louisville, Ohio, was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Board of Foreign Mission, occasioned by the acceptance of Elder Jesse Engle's application as a Foreign Missionary.

ART. XVIII. The report of the Board of Publication was submitted by the Treasurer, Elder Samuel Zook, of Abilene, Kansas, showing a balance in the treasury, May 1st, 1897, \$189.92. Accepted and approved.

ART. XIX. The report of the Des Moines, Iowa, Mission, was submitted, accepted and approved.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

A short time was given to devotional exercise led by Bro. J. H. Eshelman, of Sedgwick, Kansas.

ART. XX. The report of General Mission Fund was submitted by the Treasurer, Brother Saxton Bowers, of Canton, Ohio.

Balance in treasury, May 21st, 1896.....	\$237.94.
Receipts during the year.....	\$193.81.
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	\$431.75.
Disbursements during the year.....	\$323.22.
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Balance in treasury at date.....	\$108.53.

Accepted and approved.

Resolved: That as there is more indebtedness than funds, each district is urged to take immediate steps to raise money for the treasury (this applies especially to the General Mission Treasury).

ART. XXI. The report of the Chicago Mission was submitted by Brother H. L. Shirk, of Chicago, Illinois. Accepted and approved.

Resolved: That a vote of thanks by the Church be tendered Brother H. L. Shirk and wife, and Sister Sarah Bert, for their faithful service at the Chicago Mission.

ART. XXII. Brother H. L. Shirk, Sister Shirk and Sister Sarah Bert, were re-appointed (without a dissenting voice) to continue in charge of the Chicago Mission.

ART. XXIII. A request by Brother H. L. Shirk, of Chicago, Illinois, for a certified recommendation to be prepared for ministers and missionaries.

Decided: To prepare in blank form a certificate for ministers and missionaries, as a credential to R. R. Co's., and wherever necessary, and the instrument to be signed by the chairman and secretary.

ART. XXIV. A petition from the Wayne Co. Ohio District Council, held February 13th, 1897, and signed by the chairman and secretary, praying General Conference to revise our church Hymnal, with notes, was, owing to the want of time, deferred to conference of 1898, for action..

The Conference of 1897, which is now a matter of history, was one that will long be remembered by the church, on account of matters of special interest and moment. It was praise worthy to know that harmony and union prevailed in so great a measure. The presence and power of God was manifested, and it was characteristic of the words of Christ, where he said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another, John 13: 35.

A. J. MILLER, Secretary.

H. DAVIDSON, Moderator.