

Minutes ^{OF} _{THE} General Conference

OF THE

Brethren IN Christ

(Commonly Known as River Brethren)

HELD IN THE

MARKHAM DISTRICT

AT

GORMLEY, - ONTARIO

MAY 18, 19, 20, 1898

TRIBUNE PRINT, STOUFFVILLE

Wednesday Morning

The Brethren in Christ met in Annual Conference in the Markham District at Gormley, Ont., on May 18th, 1898.

After a season of Social Service the Conference was formally opened by the retiring Moderator Elder H. Davidson, Clayton, Ohio, by an appropriate address, and prayer, after which the organization was proceeded with which resulted as follows:

1st. MODERATOR, Eld. M. Olerholtzer, Cuibertson, of Pa; Assistant Moderators Eld H. Davidson, Clayton, Ohio, and Eld S. Zook, Abilene Kansas; Reading Clerk J. N. Engle; Secretaries Geo. Detwiler and Amos H. Engle.

The Moderator-elect read I Cor. 13th chapter accompanied by appropriate remarks.

The several Districts of the church were represented as follows:

PENNSYLVANIA

CUMBERLAND—Eld Jonathan Wert Abraham Nissley.

DONEGAL—Aaron Martin, Michael Musser, Amos H. Engle.

RAPHO—Henry B. Hoffer, Daniel Wolgemuth A. M. Sheetz, Levi Mummaw Eli Eshelman.

LEBANON—J. Kreider.

DAUPHIN—S. E. Brehm, S. W. Brehm.

MANOR—Henry L. Heisey, Jonas S. Hoffinan, Eli M. Engle.

NORTH FRANKLIN—M. Oberholtzer, Abraham Wingert, Jacob Lehman

SOUTH FRANKLIN—H. H. Heisey, John D. Wingert.

MORRISON'S COVE—H. S. Miller.

OHIO

DAYTON—H. Davidson, J. B. Wingert.

RICHLAND AND ASHLAND—Samuel Whisler.

WAYNE—John H. Smith.

KANSAS

NORTH DICKENSON—S. Zook.

SOUTH DICKENSON—J. N. Engle.

ILLINOIS

SHANNON—H. L. Shirk.

POLO—I Trump.

INDIANA.

ELKHART—M. M. Sherk.

ONTARIO

MARKHAM—John Steckley, Henry Winger, John Bestard.

NOTTAWASAGA—Isaac Baker, H. Halm.

BLACK CREEK—Afa Bearss, John Sider, C. Winger, D. V. Heise.

WATERLOO—John Wildfong.

Wednesday Afternoon

Thirty minutes were spent in devotional exercises, after which the regular Conference business was taken up.

Reports from the different districts containing words of cheer and greeting were read.

Unfinished work from last year's Conference, being in order, it was, on motion, decided that the filling of several vacancies existing in Mission and Publication Boards have the precedence.

The vacancy in the General Board of Foreign Missions caused by the removal, by death, of Bro. S. E. Graybill, of Pa., was filled by the election of Bro. Amos H. Engle, of Pa. The vacancy in the Board of Publication, from the same cause, was filled by electing Bro. S. E. Brehm, of Pa. for the unexpired time of the former member's term. The vacancy in the same Board, caused by the removal of Bro. Jesse Engle to the Foreign field, was filled by the appointment of Bro. Jacob N. Engle, of Kansas for the unexpired time of the term; The vacancy on the same Board caused by the retirement of Bro. Aaron Martin, of Pa. as the regular retiring member was filled by electing Bro. A. M. Engle, of Little York, O. in the place.

Art I. On motion, the words "residing in Dickenson Co., Kansas" were expunged from the Original Resolutions, which were passed at Annual Conference of 1896, establishing the Operating Board and joining it with the General Foreign Mission Board, and, on motion it was decided that the resignation of Eld W. O. Baker, of Louisville, O. as member of the Operating Board be not accepted.

Art II. On motion, the Committee appointed under Art 16 of Conference of 1897 was exonerated and discharged.

Art III.—Art 24 of Conference of 1897 referring to the revising and publishing of the Church Hymnal with notes, was taken up and after some discussion it was decided, on motion, to drop the question indefinitely.

Art IV. A request was presented from Pa that all the minutes of all previous Conferences be revised and published in book form.

On motion it was decided that this work be prepared, and that the revision be done by a Committee of three, and the minutes as revised be presented to next Annual Conference for approval or rejection.

Elds. H. Davidson, S. Zook and B. F. Hoover were appointed as revision committee

Art V. Whereas there is some difficulty experienced by some of our workers who are entitled to clerical favors from R. R. Co's to fully satisfy the companies as to their standing, it was decided that Elders S. Zook, H. Davidson and H. L. Shirk constitute a committee to draw up a suitable form of credential certificate which shall fully answer the purpose and be satisfactory evidence to such companies or associations, as to the applicants being entitled to such favors.

The report of the committee appointed as above was as follows:—

1st. That the certificate now in use shall be enlarged and leave the time and place of conference blank which blank is to be filled out from year to year, as the certificate is issued, 2nd. That all applications for certificates must be endorsed by the Elder in charge of the District where the applicant resides, 3rd. That all applications for certificates, if sent by mail, shall be accompanied by sufficient stamps to cover expenses of mailing.

SAMUEL ZOOK,
HENRY DAVIDSON
HENRY L. SHIRK.

Resolved that the above report be adopted, and that the above committee attend to the printing of said form.

Art VI. On motion, it was decided to carefully revise and publish a Church Directory (without the Almanac) for the current year, with such printed matter added, as may be useful, instructive and of general interest to the church.

Eld. H. Davidson, of Clayton, O. to have charge of the work.

Thursday Forenoon

After devotional exercises the work of the Conference was taken up.

Art VII. On motion it was decided that Bro Saxton Bowers, of Canton O. be treasurer to take charge of a certain sum of money donated by Mother

Shupe and Sister Haasberger, of Moline, Mich, to the church to be used exclusively for the relief of the poor.

Art VIII.—On motion it was decided that the property in the city, of Desmoine, Iowa, bequeathed to the church by the late Eld Charles Good, of that city for certain purposes and work in connection with the church be left in the hands of the appointed trustees for the use of the church.

Art IX. The question of establishing a Missionary Training Home was again discussed at some length, and again, on motion, postponed indefinitely.

Thursday Afternoon

Thirty minutes of devotional service was held.

Art IX. Is a second definite work of grace necessary for securing eternal Salvation?

Decided that on account of the diversity of feelings, opinions and even experiences in connection with the subject as evidenced by the discussion, the different elements be kept under control by largeness of love, and much forbearance, according to Eph 4: 1, 2, 3, 31, 32.

Art X. On motion Bro Daniel Climenhaga, of Stevensville, Ont., was elected member of the standing committee in place of Bro C. Bitner the retiring member.

Art XI The General Foreign Mission Board made the following report which was on motion adopted:—

“Subsequent to last year’s Conference one more worker, Barbara Hershey was added to the number of South African Missionaries, also upon the recommendation of the Operating Board Bro Geo. C. Cress and his wife Sarah Cress were recognized as regularly qualified Missionaries to South Africa to co operate and assist in that mission under the control of Elder Jesse Engle.

Financial statement of the Treasurer of the above mentioned Board

Cash on hand May 20, 1897.....	\$671 94
Received during the year.....	539 70
Total.....	\$1211 64
Disbursements.....	489 50
Balance on hand.....	\$722 14

ART. XII.—In regard to the question of limiting the number of Missionaries to be sent out, it was decided to let the Lord do the limiting.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.—As it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our associations in the church militant our beloved Brethren, Eld. Charles Good, of Des Moines, Iowa, and Bros. David Ergle and S. E. Graybill, of Pennsylvania, to their home in the Church triumphant by death; Be it resolved that this conference recognize with gratitude their services in the church, and with much sadness chronicle our loss which we believe and trust is their eternal gain.

And be it further resolved that this conference gratefully acknowledges the valuable bequests which Eld. Charles Good has donated to the church, and that a copy of these resolutions be entered upon the minutes.

Committee on Resolution { D. V. Heise
J. W. Hoover
B. F. Hoover

Friday Morning.

Conference session was formally opened by appropriate devotional services.

ART XIII.—On motion Sister Nancy A. Shirk, of Chicago, was recognized as a travelling Missionary.

XIV.—The question as to the propriety of establishing a Divine Healing Home, was on motion, postponed indefinitely.

ART XV.—The treasurer of the General Mission Board, Brother Saxton Bowers, presented his annual financial report.

Amount on hand May 1, 1897	\$ 108 53
Receipts since that time	504 20

Total	612 73
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Disbursements	307 47
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Balance on hand	305 26
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ART XVI.—The Board of Publication of the Evangelical Visitor submitted its annual report, which was adopted,

1ST FINANCIAL REPORT.—

Total receipts to May 1, 1898	\$ 1434 39
Disbursements	803 76

Balance on hand	630 63
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2ND—That Bro. H. N. Ergle be retained as editor for the ensuing year,

3RD—That the paper be continued in its present form.

4TH—That the location be continued at Abilene, Kansas, the ensuing year.

5TH—That Bro. H. N. Engle, who is burdened with a debt of \$200 contracted prior to his editorship, be relieved of the same out of the Visitor Fund.

6TH—That a vote of thanks be tendered to Bro. Engle for his faithful and efficient service during the past year.

Friday Afternoon.

Devotional exercises for thirty minutes, after which the work of Conference was taken up.

XVII —Bro. H. L. Shirk who is in charge of the Chicago Mission gave an interesting verbal report of the work and experiences of the workers, and requested to be honourably discharged

Decided that a free-will offering be taken at once and the proceeds presented to Bro. Shirk as a recognition and appreciation of the services of himself and wife in the mission, and is hereby honourably discharged at his own request,

On motion, Bro. B. L. Brubacker was appointed to take charge of the Chicago Mission in the place of Bro. H. L. Shirk,

ART XVIII,—On motion it was decided that Bro. J. R. Zook remain in charge of the mission in DesMoines, Iowa.

Also decided that Bro. J. R. Zook be paid out of the General Mission Fund for his actual living expenses, and that he apply to the treasurer for the same.

Also decided that, as certain claims exist against the church property on 13th St and University Ave. in the city of DesMoines, Iowa, and deeded to the church by the late Eld. Charles Good, the trustees be empowered by this Conference to pay off the existing indebtedness against such property, and present the same to next annual conference for settlement

ART—XIX.—Bro J. W. Hoover gave a verbal report of the Buffalo Mission which was adopted.

ART XX.—On motion it was decided that Annual Conference for 1899 be held in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania.

As this finished the business of Conference, it was brought to a close by appropriate remarks by the Moderator, and closed by song and prayer.

GEO. DETWILER,
Secretary.

M. OBERHOLTZER,
Moderator.