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Minutes
OF
GENERAL
CONFERENCE

OF THE

Brethren

IN

..Christ..

[RIVER BRETHREN]

HELD AT

Mastersonville,

Lancaster County,

Penna.

MAY 17, 18TH 19, 1899.

The following names in this report should be recognized as Elders, the term was not intentionally omitted -

Jonathan Wert, Jos. B. Detwiler
J. B. Wengert, Samuel Gook.

H. P. Neise, Geo. D. Wengert
N. L. Neisey - The following names are corrected:

J. M. Wolgemuth = J. M. Wolgemuth
Jos. B. Detwiler = Jos. B. Detwiler
J. B. Wengert = J. B. Wengert
J. W. Engle = J. W. Engle.

Copies of conference minutes can be had at 1st without mail and 3^d by mail for copy -

Address -
D. P. Smith
38 and 40 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg Pa.

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Minutes of General Conference of the Brethren in Christ.



The General Conference of the Brethren in Christ convened at Mastersonville Meeting House, Lancaster Co., Penna., on Wednesday, May 17th, at 10 A. M. After a short season of song service and testimonies, Conference formally opened by retiring Moderator Martin Oberholtzer by some timely remarks. After which the organization was completed as follows:

Moderator, Elder Henry Davidson; 1st. Asst., Elder B. F. Hoover; 2d. Asst., Elder, Samuel Zook; Reading Clerk, Geo. Detweiler; Secretary, S. R. Smith; Asst. Levi Herr.

The Moderator elect read for an opening scripture, Eph. 4, in English and German, followed by an appropriate address admonishing to patience, consistency and Godliness during the Conference.

Registry of delegates then followed.

PENNSYLVANIA :

Lykens—J. A. Keefer.

Cumberland—Jonathan Wert, Jno. Nissley.

Donegal—J. M. Walgenmuth, Jac. Martin, Aaron Martin, Mich. B. Musser, Abraham Z. Hess.

Rapho—Harry B. Hoffer, Dan. Wolgenmuth, A. M. Sheets, Dan. Brubaker, A. G. Shelly.

Lebanon and Dauphin, Elder Jac. Kreider, Jos. L. Kreider, S. E. Brehm, Jac. Books, Jac. Brubaker.

Manor and Pequa, H. L. Heisy, C. B. Miller, Eli M. Engle, Benj. Herr.

N. Franklin—Jno. Snoke, Simon Baker, Samuel Myers, Abraham Wengert.

S. Franklin. Geo. S. Wengert, Sam'l Wengert.

Morrison Cove—Levi Bowers, F. M. Brown.

Bucks, Montgomery and Phila. Mission—Jas. B. Detweiler, Henry Anglemoyer.

OHIO:

Dayton—J. B. Vengert, A. M. Engle, Eli Linky, Levi Herr, H. Davidson.

Richland and Ashland—B. F. Hoover. Stark Co.—Isaac Brechbill.

Wayne—Eld. J. H. Smith.

KANSAS:

N. Dickinson—Samuel Zook.

S. Dickinson—J. W. Engle.

INDIANA.

Elkhart—Jno. Stump.

ILLINOIS.

No Delegates.

IOWA.

Dallas Co.—H. H. Garwick.

Des Moines Mission—J. R. Zook.

ONTARIO :

Markham—H. R. Heisy, Reuben Heisy. Carland Mission, Mich., was represented by the Markham delegates.

Black Creek—Geo. Detweiler.

Conference adjourned at 12 M. to convene at 1 P. M.

AFTERNOON.

Conference convened at 1 P. M. by a 30 minute devotion led by Bro. J. N. Engle, followed by prayer, after which the petitions from the various districts were read and recorded.

Eld. Sam'l Zook, Eld. H. Davidson and Eld. B. F. Hoover, committee appointed by General Conference, of 1898, to revise minutes of previous conferences, for various reasons, reported no progress were by unanimous consent exonerated for not reporting and advised to report at next General Conference.

ART. 1st. On motion, agreed that the Committee on Revision of Minutes shall be empowered to formulate a Burial and

Marriage Ritual as they think proper, and report at next General Conference, for approval.

ART. 2nd. A petition from Dallas Center, Iowa, praying General Conference, to appoint Peter Good, James Reiste and Sam'l Good as Trustees of church property at Dallas Center, Dallas Co., Iowa, deeded by Sam'l Good to Samuel Herr, Peter Good and J. R. Zook. On consultation agreed that the Moderator appoint a committee of three, to investigate the affairs and report at next General Conference. The following are the committee: H. L. Trump, Polo, Ill., Jno. B. Knupp, Garrison, Iowa, Eld. Sam'l Zook, Albilene, Kans.

ART. 3d. What does Baptism mean? On motion agreed that the Dallas Centre committee be instructed to investigate the cause that gave rise to the above question.

ART. 4th. A petition from Dallas Centre: We desire to call the attention of General Conference to the conduct of a certain brother Evangelist while preaching. Agreed that the Dallas Centre committee shall also investigate the above charge and report at the next General Conference.

ART. 5. Has a church member the

privilege under the Gospel, to go to law? Answer, No.

ART. 6. Have we the privilege to use instrumental music in our churches during worship. Answer, No.

ART. 7. Is it the teaching of Christ and the Apostles, that those who have been converted, and born again, according to John 3: 3, thus became a branch in the vine, Jno. 15: 5, must seek a second definite work of Grace to be sanctified? After considerable discussions of various sentiments, conference adjourned to meet Thursday morning by continuing the question.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Conference convened at 8 by devotional services, and prayer and Scripture reading from Eph. 4th. The question under Art. 7 from Wednesday afternoon was continued, after a lengthy discussion in which a number of views were presented, it was agreed by a unanimous conference vote, that the confession of faith as had been adopted by General Conference of 1887, shall be the standard by which this question shall be answered.

ART. 8. A petition to consider the decision to Art 3 of General Conference of 1887. Question. Is a member allowed to have his life insured? Decision of

1887 not allowing life insurance was again affirmed.

ART. 9. Elder Jac. K. Kreider was authorized to ordain Sister Emma Long as Home Missionary.

Conference adjourned to meet at 1 P. M.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

After a season of Song service and Social worship, Conference convened at 1:30 opened by prayer, and as a sequel to decision of Art. 7 on motion agreed to appoint a committee of five to formulate resolutions to more fully carry out the standard as adopted. Committee, Elder W. O. Baker, Elder B. F. Hoover, Elder J. B. Wengert, Elder Jac. M. Engle, Elder M. Oberholtzer. Resolutions as adopted. Resolved.

1st. That Elders, Ministers, Evangelists and all other laborers, male or female in the Church of the Brethren in Christ, shall be examined before being sent out to labor, by a board of three Elders appointed by General Conference for general workers, and the officials of the district for local workers.

2d. If these workers transgress the established doctrines and usages of the Church, they shall be responsible for their acts to the body that authorized them to labor.

3rd. The penalty for violating these resolutions shall be suspension of labor until they reform. If the reformation does not take place before General Conference, they shall be amenable to Matthew 18.

4th. Examinations to be renewed annually. Conference appointed Elder Martin Oberholtzer Culbertson, Pa., Elder Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kans., Elder Charles Baker, Nottawa, Ont. examining committee.

ART. 10. On motion agreed to retain Brother, J. R. Zook as overseer of Des Moines Mission.

ART. 11. On motion agreed that the sum of about \$52. set aside as a poor fund in the hands of Saxton Bowers, should be used for that purpose, and Brother Garver, of Des Moines should have the first benefit of it. Brother and Sister J. R. Zook and Sister Driver shall have the distributing oversight.

ART. 12. The decision of General Conference of 1896 relative to brethren claiming to be called of God to preach was on motion agreed to remain as adopted.

ART. 13. A petition from Dauphin and Lebanon, praying General Conference to accept from the present board of managers of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home of Harrisburg, Pa., a deed of

title including all the real estate and household effects, together with all provisions for public worship. On motion agreed to postpone the decision till Friday's session.

ART. 14. Brother A. G. Zook of Morrison, Ill., was appointed to fill the vacancy of Brother A. L. Meyers decd., of the General Foreign Missionary Board.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference convened at 7:30 with 30 minutes devotion led by Brother Arnold, of York Co., Pa., after an opening prayer by Brother George B. Detwiler, a report from Polc, Ill., was read. stating that love, peace and harmony prevailed in the brotherhood, and declared their loyalty to the church in the service of the Master. After some lengthy discussions and remarks upon Art. 7 of this conference. The subject was again referred to the resolution of Thursday afternoon. The Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home petition of Dauphin and Lebanon counties, which was continued from Thursday afternoon was again taken up, and a motion to continue the Home under corporation as it had been incorporated was defeated. A motion that the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home shall be accepted by, and become the property of the Church

of the Brethren in Christ, by the passing of a title of said Home, by the present managing board carried by a large conference vote. On motion agreed that the present managing board of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home shall be retained as a managing board the same as before, for the following conference year and shall appoint a board of trustees of five and report for confirmation in the afternoon.

ART. 15. Financial report of Board of Publication, by Samuel Zook, Treasurer. Balance on hand from E. V.

report of 1898, - - -	\$630.63
Receipts during year to date, - - -	1,257.05
Total, - - -	\$1,887.68
Expenditures.	
Printing, - - - - -	\$554.60
Donation to Editor 1898 Con. - - -	200.00
Postage, help, material, &c., - - -	327.48
Total Receipts, - - - - -	\$1,887.68
Total Expenditures, - - - - -	1,082.08
Balance in Treasury, - - - - -	\$805.60

ART. 16. H. N. Engle, Editor EVANGELICAL VISITOR tendered his resignation which was accepted.

ART. 17. A vote of thanks was tendered by this Conference to Brother, H. N. Engle, Editor EVANGELICAL VISITOR for his

faithful service in connection with the VISITOR, and ordered that \$150 be donated out of the Publication fund as a token of good will.

ART. 18. A recommendation of the Publishing Board to retain the publication of the EVANGELICAL VISITOR in Abilene, Kans., with Elder, Samuel Zook, of Abilene, Kans., as Editor, and W. O. Baker, of Louisville, Ohio, and George Detwiler, of Shirkston, Ont., advisaries was confirmed on condition that Elder Zook be granted the privilege to select an Assistant Editor.

ART. 19. On motion it was decided that all questions pertaining to the VISITOR to be presented to Conference shall first be passed on by the Board of Publication.

ART. 20. Retiring member of the Publication Board, Daniel Heisy was re-elected.

ART. 21. On motion agreed to appoint a committee of three to draft a program for order of business for future Conferences, and report for approval at General Conference in 1900. Committee, Elder W. O. Baker, Elder, B. F. Hoover, D. V. Heisy.

ART. 22. On petition agreed that General Conference convene in Southern Ohio, in 1900. Conference adjourned to convene at 1:30.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

After a season of song service and testimonies, led by Brother Free, Conference was opened by prayer.

ART. 23. On motion, A. J. Miller, Dayton, O., was appointed to confer with different railroad companies about getting reduced rates to General Conference.

ART. 24. On motion agreed to tender a vote of thanks, in the name of the Master to all the Missionary workers throughout the U. S. and Canada.

ART. 25. On motion agreed that the Church Directory of 1898 to 1899 be considered good for another year.

ART. 26. A petition from Phila. Mission praying General Conference for aid towards a church building was granted by appointing 3 general solicitors for the purpose of soliciting aid and as soon as sufficient means have been secured for a site and building, the work shall be proceeded with. The Brethren A. B. Musser, Harrisburg, Pa., Eli M. Engle, Mt Joy, Pa., and J. N. Martin, Elizabethtown, Pa., were appointed solicitors.

ART. 27. Report of the Foreign Missionary Board.

1st. Financial Report: ASSETS.

Balance on hand, May 1898,	-	\$722.14
Receipts to " 1899,	-	993.90
Total,	- -	\$1,715.14

Expenditures during year,	1030.50
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Balance on hand,	\$684.64
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2d. The report of Elder Jesse Engle, of South African Matoppa Mission, was presented by the Operating Board and adopted, with a proviso of caution in the expenditures.

ART. 28. Report of Brother Saxton Bowers, Treasurer of Home Missionary Fund, as follows:

Balance on hand, May 1898,	-	\$305.26
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Receipts during year,	-	221.59
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Total,	-	-	\$526.85
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Disbursements during year,	-	449.85
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Balance on hand, May 1899,	77.00
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Adopted.

ART. 29. Chicago Mission Report:

Total offerings for the year,	\$327.95
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Disbursements,	-	310.02
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Balance on hand,	\$ 17.93
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Adopted.

ART. 30. The Operating Board also reported that Barbara Hershey, being no longer connected with the Matoppa Missionaries, is not supported from the Mission Fund.

ART. 31. Conference authorized the following letter to be forwarded to the Matoppa Mission, South Africa:

Mastersonville, May 18th, 1899.

To the Mission Workers of South Africa:

Peace, blessing and power to all the workers on all lines of labor.

We desire that you may prosper in your field of labor and that much good may result therefrom. As order is a Law of Heaven, we order that Elder Jesse Engle be regarded as the leader in the Mission, and that all workers respect and obey him as such; and that there be perfect harmony in the Mission, and God will bless you with prosperity and much success, that you will have clusters of stars in your crowns and that the heathen may rise up in judgment and bless you. It is also our will that Elder Jesse Engle supply all the wants of the school out of the General Mission Fund he holds in hand; also that Jessie Engle be the Treasurer of the Mission, and Sister Alice Heise be recognized as Secretary of the Mission for the conference year.

We also hereby appoint Sister Frances Davidson as Supt. of the Mission School at Matoppa, South Africa.

Elder Henry Davidson, Chairman.

Elder Samuel Zook, Treasurer.

Elder W. O. Baker, Secretary.

Foreign Missionary Operating Board.

ART. 32. Elder Henry Davidson was re-elected to standing committee.

ART. 33. The following names were presented by the managing board and confirmed by General Conference as trustees for the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home of Harrisburg, Pa., William L. Kreider, Palmyra, Pa. J. M. Wolgemuth and Aaron Martin, Elizabethtown, Pa., J. S. Engle, Hummelstown, Pa., John Leininger, Good Hope, Pa.

Articles of Organization of the "Premananda Faith Orphanage Association," of Calcutta, India, were read. As there was no more business to be brought before the Conference, it was brought to a close with some appropriate closing remarks and prayer by the moderators.

Thus another page has been added to the annals of the church, and it is hoped that the work done may be for the peace and prosperity of the brotherhood in general and for the spiritual profit of all, through the blessings of God.

HENRY DAVIDSON,

S. R. SMITH,

Moderator.

Secretary.