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IN
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[RIVER BRETHREN]

HELD AT

Donnelsville,
CLARK COUNTY,
Ohio,

May 17, 18 1/2 19, 1900.

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Brethren in Christ.

The General Conference of the Brethren in Christ convened at the Maple Grove Meeting House, Donnelsville, Ohio, (Dayton district) on Wednesday, May 16, 1900 at 10 a. m. A short time was spent in devotional exercises after which Elder H. Davidson, the retiring moderator, formally opened Conference with an appropriate address, welcoming the members of Conference to the district, and with words of appreciation and respect to such as have been removed by death from the ranks of the workers in the foreign field, Elder Jesse Engle and Sister Sara Cress, as well as

the late Elder J. M. Engle of Mount Joy, Pa., and Elder Peter Keagy, after which the organization was completed resulting as follows:

Moderator, Elder M. H. Oberholtzer; 1st asst. Elder S. Zook; 2nd asst. Elder Chas. Baker; Reading clerk S. R. Smith; Secretary Geo. Detwiler; Asst. Sec. D. V. Heise.

The Moderator elect read for a Scripture lesson the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians followed by some appropriate and timely remarks on the same in connection with the work in hand.

Following was the registry of delegates.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Silverdale, Skippack and Philadelphia—Elder J. B. Detwiler, Peter Stover, Wm. P. Keely.

Manor—Eli M. Engle, C. S. Hostetter.

Donegal—Aaron Martin, J. N. Martin, H. B. Musser, M. B. Musser.

Rapho—Elder H. B. Hoffer, A. M. Sheetz.

Dauphin and Lebanon—S. E. Brehm, A. B. Musser, S. R. Smith, J. W. Myers, E. L. Engle.

Cumberland—Elder Jonathan Wert, J. B. Niesley.

North Franklin—Elder M. H. Oberholtzer, Abra. Wingert, John Asper.

South Franklin and Maryland—Elder A. S. Leshner, S. S. Wingert.

Morrison's Cove and Center Co.—Elder I. Stern.

OHIO.

Dayton—Elder J. B. Wingert, Elder H. Davidson, S. L. Herr, A. M. Engle, Levi Herr.

Stark—J. C. Dick.

Wayne—S. B. Longenecker.

Ashland and Richland—Eld. B. F. Hoover.

INDIANA.

Elkhart—M. M. Sberk.

ILLINOIS.

Polo, including Chicago—H. L. Trump.

Whiteside—J. H. Gehman.

IOWA.

Dallas Center—H. H. Garwick.

Des Moines—J. R. Zook.

KANSAS.

North Dickinson—Elder S. Zook.

South Dickinson—Elder J. N. Engle.

ARIZONA.

Arizona—C. C. Burkholder.

ONTARIO.

Black Creek—Elder Jonas Winger.
Markham—Elder S. Baker, Fred
Elliot, Peter Steckley.

Nottawa—Elder Chas. Baker.

After this was completed the petitions and articles from the different districts were received and recorded.

Unfinished business left over from last Conference being in order was taken up.

1st. The committee on revision of Conference minutes consisting of Elders S. Zook, H. Davidson, and B. F. Hoover, appointed at Conference of 1898 gave a report of their work; which, on motion, was adopted so far as finished, and also decided that the same committee be retained to finish the work including formulas for marriage and burial services and publish the same within this conference year.

2nd. The committee appointed at Conference of 1899 to investigate matters at Dallas Center, Iowa, reported to the Conference, and no ac-

tion was taken regarding the same.

3rd. The committee appointed by Conference of 1899 to prepare a programme for conducting the work of Conference presented the outline, and on motion it was decided that the suggestions of the committee be brought into operation at this Conference and that the committee on revision formulate a tabulated set of rules for the carrying on of the business of Conference and embody the same in Church Government, agreeable with the suggestions of the committee. The unfinished business of Conference of 1899 being disposed of, the Conference now proceeded in the transaction of the regular business.

City and Home Mission Reports.

I. PHILADELPHIA MISSION.

a. Bro. Peter Stover, who has charge of the Mission gave an interesting and instructive verbal report of the work under his charge which was appreciated and thankfully approved and adopted.

b. The committee appointed by

Conference of 1899 under Art. 26, to procure the means to secure a sufficiently commodious building as needed for the work of the Philadelphia Mission, made report which was adopted and in accordance with the request of the members of the committee were exonerated from further duty.

c. On motion, Elder Joseph B. Detwiler, Henry Anglemoyer and Peter Stover were appointed a committee with power to secure the property now occupied by the Philadelphia Mission and to proceed at once with the incorporating of said Mission according to law.

2. HARRISBURG (PENNSYLVANIA) MISSION.

a. The treasurer of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home gave a report of the finances of the Home, and also the Secretary of the Board gave an interesting report as to the management and work accomplished which reports were, on motion, approved and adopted.

b. On motion it was decided that the present Board of Management as

constituted by last year's Conference be retained indefinitely, subject however to the By-Laws of the Home.

c. An offer from a person tendering \$3000 toward erecting a building on the grounds of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home at Harrisburg, Pa., to be used as an orphanage to rescue orphan and deserted children was accepted, on condition that the managing board of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home shall appropriate the money judiciously for the purpose for which it was tendered. Approved and adopted.

d. The report of A. B. Musser, treasurer of Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home of Harrisburg, Pa. for the Conference year is as follows:

Receipts from contributions, etc.	\$ 719 39
Receipts from admissions.....	1,207 50
Receipts from sale of ground....	2,150 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,076 89

DISBURSEMENTS.

House expense	\$ 626 58
Repairs, funeral expense, etc.....	271 26
Paid on property	3,150 00
	<hr/>
Balance in treasury	\$ 29 05
The indebtedness of the Home May 1899 was.....	\$ 6,289 61
Paid during the Conference year	3,150 00
	<hr/>
Balance of debt May 1900	\$ 3 139 61

3. BUFFALO, (NEW YORK) MISSION.

In the absence of any special report of the Buffalo, N. Y. Mission Bro. D. V. Heise gave a satisfactory and interesting verbal report which, on motion, was approved.

CHICAGO MISSION.

The workers gave an itemized financial report, as follows:

Receipts during the year.....	\$ 279 09
Disbursements.....	276 60

Balance on hand..... \$ 2 49

The report was on motion adopted.

5. DES MOINES, (IOWA) MISSION.

a. Bro. J. R. Zook, who is in charge of the Mission, gave an interesting verbal report of the progress of the work, additional and explanatory of the written report. The financial report shows that there is due the Mission \$295.65. The report was adopted and on motion it was decided to make up the deficiency, for which purpose the Brethren M. M. Sherk and M. B. Musser were appointed a committee to apportion the amounts proportionately among the different districts.

b. On motion the Brethren S. E.

Brehm, Jonathan Wert, Harvey Miller, J. N. Engle, Fred Elliott were appointed as a committee to investigate conditions existing in Des Moines, Iowa and report.

The committee reported as follows:

Firstly—We heard read the greater part of the decision of the court on this matter, in which the court pronounces the Church clear of the charges preferred in the case and the title to the property beyond dispute.

We also find that the Plaintiffs have appealed the case to the supreme court, nevertheless our attorney assures us that the appeal is not at all likely to be sustained.

Secondly—There are certain conditions required in the deed which must necessarily be fulfilled in order to hold the property, for which no provisions have as yet been made, and your committee is not prepared to offer any suggestion.

Thirdly—Since one of the trustees fails to act in connection with the work, we recommend that another be appointed in his stead.

Fourthly—The financial question we find as follows:

The present indebtedness at date is \$1398.48 with four payments pending on street taxes amounting to about \$442.80 with interest, also a percentage payable to the attorney in case the supreme court decides favorable to the church.

Further, we recommend that this Conference tender a vote of thanks to Bro. J. R. Zook and wife for their faithful labors and untiring efforts in their work in Des Moines.

J. N. ENGLE,

Secretary.

FRED. ELLIOTT,

Chairman.

c. The above report was made late on Thursday and was then fully considered on Friday. Two of the trustees, appointed by the late Elder Chas. Good, gave a full report of the present condition and circumstances as regards the bequest of property to be used as a Missionary Training Home in the city of Des Moines, Iowa, made by the said late Elder C. Good, and after a lengthy discussion the following resolution was passed.

Resolved that this Conference pass a resolution appreciative of the integrity and honesty of the late Elder Chas. Good of Des Moines, Iowa, in

making the bequest of the property on 2nd and Grand Ave. and that it regards it as property legally belonging to the Church to be used and disposition of it made according to the condition upon which it was donated.

The matter of the present indebtedness resting on the property was also discussed and the sentiment of Conference was that the Church is responsible for the same.

6. ARIZONA MISSION.

Bro. C. C. Burkholder, one of the ministers there, gave a verbal report which proved both interesting and instructive showing the work has been steadily growing. The report was adopted.

6. CARLAND, (MICHIGAN) MISSION.

Elder S. Baker gave a verbal report of the Mission disclosing the fact that Bro. G. Kately has moved away and they are virtually without a minister, and would desire this Conference to make provision for them.

On motion, the matter was left in the hands of Elder S. Baker of Gormley, Ont., to deal with it as may be needful.

8. GENERAL MISSION REPORT.

Bro. Saxton Bowers, treasurer of the General Mission Board gave an itemized report of monies received and paid out during the Conference year.

SUMMARY.

Balance on hand May 1899.....	\$ 77 00
Receipts during the year.....	196 45
Total.....	\$273 44
Paid out during the year.....	\$190 56
Balance on hand.....	\$82 88

This report was adopted.

9. Foreign Missions.

Report of the treasurer of the Foreign Mission Fund.

Balance on hand May 1899.....	\$684 64
Received during year.....	537 00
Total.....	\$1222 24
Total amount paid out.....	606 00
Balance on hand.....	\$616 24

The Foreign Missionary Board presented the following resolutions which were approved

a. The appointment of Sister Francis Davidson as treasurer of Mission Funds at Matoppo Mission in

place of Elder Jesse Engle deceased.

b. That the treasurer send \$500 to the Mission forthwith.

c. That G. C. Cress be requested to remain at the Matoppo Mission for the time being.

d. That the applicants for recognition as Missionaries are referred to their respective home districts for letters of recognition as members in good standing. The names of applicants are as follows: Bro. and Sister J. O. Lehman, Bro. and Sister Josiah Martin, Bro. N. H. Reichard and Bro. Levi Doner.

10 EVANGELICAL VISITOR

a. Financial report by the Treasurer, Elder S. Zook.

Balance on hand May 1, 1899.....	\$805 60
Receipts during the year.....	1122 91
Total.....	\$1928 51
Expenditures.....	1463 16

Balance in treasury May 1, 1900.... \$ 465 35

The Publication Board made report as follows, which was approved.

b. That it would recommend that a special effort be made to increase the circulation of the Evangelical Visitor.

c. That since the general feeling of last year's Conference was favorable to moving the place of publication to the east, the Board recommends that this proposal be effected.

d. In consideration of "Conference forecast" as published in the Evangelical Visitor of May 1, in which the present Editor expresses his desire to be relieved of his duty as Editor, we recommend that Bro. Geo. Detwiler be appointed to the Editorial office.

e. Further, we recommend that the advisory committee be chosen near where the Visitor will be located.

J. N. ENGLE,

Secretary.

D. V. HEISE,

Chairman.

f. On motion, decided that the Evangelical Visitor continue to be published at Abilene, Kansas.

g. On motion, by the recommendation of the Publication Board, Conference passed a resolution of thanks to Elder S. Zook for his efficient and faithful work in his office during his term of service, also to Bro. Geo. Detwiler for faithful attention to his duties.

h. On motion, decided that Elder

S. Zook be associated with Elder W. O. Baker as member of advisory board in place of Bro. Geo. Detwiler.

i. On motion, decided that Elder H. R. Heise, of Victory Square, Ont. be re-elected as member of the Board of Publication.

General Church Work.

a. A petition to General Conference from Lancaster county Joint Council, that Conference of 1900 adopt an ordinance allowing only delegates to vote at General Conference instead of delegates and official members. On motion, tabled.

b. Can persons who are not able to be baptized on account of physical conditions be received as members? On motion this question was referred to the district whence it came to be dealt with according as the case may require.

c. On motion it was decided that the members of Center county Pa., district make choice of an Elder to have the oversight of that district.

d. Question as to what has been

done towards having tracts printed by committee appointed by a former General Conference. Nothing has been done.

e. The question from Whiteside, Ill. as to how to deal with a brother minister who persists in preaching doctrine not accepted by the church or contrary to what the church believes, was, on motion, referred to the Elders of the Illinois districts for adjustment.

f. By request, on motion, Conference appointed Bro. John Reiste as Trustee of the church property at Dallas center, Iowa, in place of Samuel Herr.

g. Decided, on motion, that the directory of 1898 be confirmed again for this Conference year.

h. The matter of issuing a new edition of Spiritual Hymns was deferred for another year, and it was decided that the several districts take up the matter for consideration and be ready to report as to the number and kind needed etc. at next General Conference.

i. Question as to why certain clauses of last year's minutes did not appear

in the printed minutes was ventilated, and after hearing the explanations of those implicated it was on motion decided to accept the explanations and apologies, but with the caution, that under no circumstances can any changes be made in any minutes once adopted and approved by Conference excepting it be in the matter of grammatical construction.

j. The question from Kansas Joint Council referring to the election of the Moderator by a majority vote was dropped.

k. The question referring to the advisability of examining applicants as Missionaries on their belief as to sanctification was also dropped.

l. A petition from Kan. Joint Council to outline and submit some formula of faith to be used in the examinations of officials for ordination, was referred to a committee of five elders for consideration and to make report to Conference. Elders, H. Davidson, S. Baker, B. F. Hoover, H. B. Hoffer, J. B. Wingert were chosen as committee.

The report of the above committee was favorable to the adoption of such

a guide or formula as recommended by the Kansas Joint Council, but, on motion was not approved by Conference.

m. On motion, Elder Jonathan Wert was appointed as member of the Standing Committee in place of the late Elder Jacob M. Engle.

n. On motion Conference passed a resolution of thankful appreciation to Elder S. M. Good of San Diego, Cal., for his beneficent gift of church property to the church at Dallas Center, Iowa.

o. On motion, Peter H. Doner of Stayner, Ont., was re-elected as member of the Standing Committee.

p. On motion, it was decided to hold General Conference of 1901 at Black Creek, near Stevensville, Ont.

q. On motion, it was decided that the minutes be issued in the same size and form as Conference of 1899.

Resolution of Condolence.

WHEREAS, God in His wisdom has created everything to His honor and for His glory and while Elder

Jesse Engle and Sister Sarah Cress, Missionaries to South Africa, being among the first foreign missionaries sent out by the church, having been so early and so unexpectedly called from their fields of labor to their reward by an all wise and over ruling Providence, be it therefore.

RESOLVED, That this Conference hereby expresses its deep and heartfelt sorrow in the early and unexpected death of our dear Elder Jesse Engle and Sister Sarah Cress and while we are not able to understand why the Lord in His Providence should so soon call those who are so useful and so much needed in the Lord's work, yet having this confidence in God that while we do not know, He knows; and therefore in humble submission to His divine will we acquiesce and yield to the same and that their sacrifice for the cause of God and the church remain as a Memorial in the annals of the church, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Conference in its deep sympathy with the friends of the deceased and especially with Sister Engle and Bro. G. C. Cress in their sad bereavement, and pray that

God who has stricken the wound may abundantly pour the oil of consolation into their hearts, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Conference in its deep sympathy also acknowledge the dispensation of God's Providence in removing from our midst, by death, during this past Conference year, Elder Jacob M. Engle of Lancaster county, Pa., and Elder Peter Keagy of Blair county, Pa., and while the church realizes its loss in their labors, we believe that our loss is their eternal gain. Be it further

RESOLVED, That the above Resolution be recorded on the minutes of this Conference and also published in the Evangelical Visitor.

The business of Conference was finished up on Friday evening May 18. Two sessions were held daily with an extra session on Thursday evening. Every morning at 6, devotional services were held, and between regular sessions devotional and social exercises conducted by different Brethren were held which proved to be seasons of profit to many.

The generally expressed feeling

was that it was a good Conference taken care of and controlled by a stronger than human hand and mind. May the results be such as shall tend to more unity, as well as more effectual work for the extension of the Kingdom of God at home and abroad.

M. H. OBERHOLTZER,
Moderator.

GEO. DETWILER, Secretary.



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