

MINUTES

—OF—

General Conference

—OF—

The BRETHREN IN CHRIST
(RIVER BRETHREN)

—HELD AT—

SIX LINE CHURCH, STAYNER,
ONTARIO,

May 18, 19, 20, 1904.

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May 18, 19, 20, 1904.

Conference Schedule.

Note.—Conference opened 10 a. m., May 18, 1904. Adjourned, 12 m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 1 p. m. Adjourned 5 p. m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 6 p. m. Adjourned at 7.30, followed by preaching services.

Thursday, May 19, 1904. Conference convened at 8.30 a. m. Adjourned at 12 m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 1 p. m. Adjourned at 5 p. m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 6 p. m. Adjourned at 7.30, followed by preaching services.

Friday, May 20, 1904. Conference convened at 8.30 a. m. Adjourned at 12 m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 1 p. m. and adjourned at 5 p. m. One hour for refreshments. Convened at 6 p. m. Adjourned 7.30 p. m., followed by preaching services. The different services were led by Brethren appointed by the Moderators. There were nine sessions of Conference lasting in all twenty-five hours and thirty minutes.

Minutes of General Conference

—OF—

The Brethren in Christ, Stayner, Ontario, 1904.

STAYNER, ONTARIO.

General Conference of the Brethren in Christ, convened at Sixth Line Church, near Stayner, Ontario, on Wednesday, May 18, 1904, at 9.30 a. m. and was opened with devotional exercises of about thirty minutes, after which the retiring Moderator, Bishop M. H. Oberholser, formally opened Conference by outlining methods of organization, etc., and appointed the Brethren A. M. Engle, D. V. Heise and Asa Bearsse a committee to proceed with electing Moderators, which resulted as follows: Moderator, Bishop W. O. Baker; First Assistant, Bishop M. H. Oberholser; Second Assistant, Bishop B. F. Hoover.

The Moderators-elect then appointed the Brethren W. J. Myers, Reading Clerk; S. R. Smith, Secretary; D. V. Heise, Assistant Secretary, who were confirmed by Conference.

The Moderator-elect then read Ephesians, fourth chapter, and made some appropriate comments on the Scripture read, and especially counselled members of Conference to use wisdom, love and forbearance in the deliberations

of Conference. The delegates then registered and presented their credentials as follows:

Silverdale District and Philadelphia, Pa.—Henry Angeny.

Manor District, Pa.—Noah Z. Hess, Eli M. Engle.

Rapho District, Pa.—Bishop H. B. Hoffer, A. M. Sheets.

Donegal District, Pa.—Bishop Aaron Martin, Abram Z. Hess.

Dauphin and Lebanon District, Pa.—Henry K. Kreider.

Cumberland District, Pa.—Bishop Jonathan Wert, John B. Neisly.

North Franklin District, Pa.—Bishop M. H. Oberholser, A. W. Wingert.

South Franklin District, Pa.—C. S. Leshner, John D. Wingert.

Lykens Valley District, Pa.—John A. Keefer. Juniata District, Pa.—No delegate.

Morrison's Cove and Centre County District, Pa.—D. Martin Miller.

Pennsylvania State Council—Delegate-at-large, S. R. Smith.

Dayton District, O.—Bishop B. F. Hoover, Bishop John A. Stump.

Stark County District, O.—Bishop W. O. Baker.

Wayne County District, O.—W. J. Myers. Ashland and Richland District, O.—Bishop B. F. Hoover.

Elkhart District Ind.—Bishop John A. Stump.

Polo District, Ill.—Represented by report.

Chicago Mission—By report.

Des Moines Mission, Ia.—J. R. Zook.

Dallas Centre District, Ia.—H. H. Garwick.

North Dickinson District, Kans.—S. H. Bert. South Dickinson District, Kans.—Bishop J. N. Engle.

Brown County District, Kans.—Christian Haldeman.

Arizona Mission—No delegate.

California Mission, Upland Cal.—Represented by report from Kansas Joint Council.

Black Creek District, Ont.—Bishop Jonas Winger, Girvin Bearse.

Nottawa District, Ont.—Henry Hahn, Isaac Swalm.

Markham District, Ont.—Benjamin Climenhaga, D. W. Heise, T. S. Doner.

Carland Mission, Mich.—Represented by report.

Waterloo District, Ont.—Myron Taylor.

After registering of the delegates, petitions, questions and reports were submitted and filed in consecutive order for consideration of Conference. The vacancy on the Board of Publication, occasioned by the absence of S. E. Brehm, was filled by appointing Henry K. Kreider for this Conference.

The vacancy on the Board of Publication, occasioned by A. M. Engle, the present member being also on the Foreign Mission Board, was filled by appointing Brother Abraham Winger to serve for this Conference.

The vacancy on the Foreign Mission Board, occasioned by the absence of Brother A. H. Engle, was filled by appointing Eli M. Engle for this Conference.

The vacancy on the Foreign Mission Board, occasioned by the absence of Samuel Whisler, was filled by appointing Bishop B. F. Hoover

to serve for this Conference. The vacancy on the Foreign Mission Board, occasioned by the absence of Brother John M. Sheetz, was filled by appointing Brother S. H. Bert to serve for this Conference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Art. 1. The Hymn Book Committee reported a balance of \$23.23 in favor of the Church, in the hands of S. R. Smith on behalf of the Committee. Report approved.

Art. 2. On motion, decided that the amount of \$23.23, in the hands of S. R. Smith, shall be left for distribution to the discretion of Bro. Smith, to be used for church purposes as he thinks best.

Art. 3. The Committee on Church Directory reported a shortage of \$7.68. On motion, decided that a proposition to pay the amount due the Committee out of the funds in the hands of S. R. Smith, of the Church Hymn Book Committee, shall be accepted.

Art. 4. The Committee appointed by Conference of 1903, under Article 15, to formulate a Conference Index, reported that on account of the Church in Pennsylvania making efforts for incorporation, the Committee concluded to await the action of Conference before taking steps in the publication of the Conference Index, since Conference necessarily would have to publish the Constitution and By-Laws of Incorporation of the Church as reported by Pennsylvania State Council; thereby saving expenses of two publications. The report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

GENERAL CHURCH WORK.

Art. 5. A report of the Philadelphia Mission was submitted to be read. This report properly belonged to Mission Work, but on account of it relating to the condition of the work and Real Estate, it was decided to admit it under General Church Work for report. After reading the report, comments were made by members of Conference of a praise-worthy nature, whereupon Conference tendered a vote of thanks as follows:

Resolved, That this Conference voices a vote of thanks to the Mission workers of Philadelphia, Pa., for their faithful labors under the divine guidance of God, and,

Resolved, That the church should join in prayer to God that the Mission Work may prosper through divine guidance, and,

Resolved, That the Brotherhood-at-large should make efforts to give regular support to this Mission, both in material and in service.

Art. 6. A petition to make inquiry whether Bro. G. C. Chess, of Chicago Mission, has complied with the requirements of the Examining Committee of 1903, was considered at length, and decided to refer the matter to Bishop Isaac Trump, in whose district Bro. Chess is laboring, with the co-operation of the Examining Board and with the instructions that the matter shall be investigated, and if not complied with, that Bishop Trump, with the co-operation of the Examining Committee shall attend to, that Article 42, of Conference of 1903 is observed, in order to bring about better co-operation for the support and sustentation of the Mission, from the Brotherhood at large.

Art. 7. Conference considered Article 29 of the Conference of 1903 at length, and decided that no member of the Brethren in Christ, or any co-operative Church association, is allowed to join secret organizations, or labor unions, and that the teachings throughout the church at large shall be to prove the inconsistency by the word of God of becoming affiliated with secret organizations, etc., as implied in this article.

Art. 8. By request of Conference, the Pennsylvania delegation reported the work of Church Incorporation in the State of Pennsylvania, as authorized under Article 12, of Conference of 1903, and ordered the Constitution and By-Laws as adopted by the Church in Pennsylvania, to be read for consideration, adoption, or rejection. After the reading of the Constitution and By-Laws, some of the articles were considered in detail, but were finally adopted as a whole with a provision that several articles shall be amended and added to read as follows:

Art. 30. Any District which had been previously incorporated as a local district, and in its organization installed more trustees for church properties than those required under Article 15, Section 2, of the By-Laws, shall be allowed to retain the number of trustees as previously elected.

Art. 9. Conference confirmed the names of the following Brethren as trustees of the Church, Home, Orphanage and Mission properties as follows:

Philadelphia Mission, located at 3434 N. Second street, Philadelphia, Pa. Trustees:

Bishop Joseph B. Detwiler, Souderton, Pa. Solomon G. Engle, 648 N. Thirty-ninth street, Philadelphia, Pa. Peter Stover, 3423 N. Second street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Silverdale District Pa., Souderton Meeting House. Joseph B. Detweiler, Souderton, Pa. Henry F. Rosenberger, Souderton, Pa. Harry R. Kaufman, Souderton, Pa.

Silverdale District Pa., Silverdale Meeting House. Henry F. Anglemoyer, Silverdale, Pa. Albert P. Kratz, Silverdale, Pa. Howard B. Stout, Silverdale, Pa.

Silverdale District, Pa., Montgomery Meeting House, or Grater's Ford Meeting House. George Tyson, Schwenksville, Pa., Abram Haldeman, Iron Bridge, Pa.

Manor District, Pa., Pequa Meeting House. Trustees: Abraham M. Hess, Lancaster, Pa., R. F. D. No. 7. Jacob Good, Lancaster, Pa., R. F. D. No. 7. C. B. Miller, Conestoga Center, Pa.

Manor District Pa., Manor Meeting House. Trustees: Cyrus Mann, Mountville, Pa. C. N. Hostetter, Creswell, Pa. Frederick Fry, Creswell, Pa.

Donegal District, Pa., Cross Roads Meeting House. Trustees: Michael B. Musser, Mt. Joy, Pa. Jacob Zercher, Mt. Joy, Pa. Martin N. Wolgemuth, Rheems, Pa.

Donegal District, Pa., Conoy Meeting House. Trustees: Aaron Martin, Elizabethtown, Pa. David G. Heisey, Elizabethtown, Pa. Cyrus Engle, Lobata, Pa.

Rapho District Pa., Mt. Pleasant Meeting House. Trustees: Samuel Wolgemuth, Mt. Joy, Pa. Jacob M. Hostetter, Mt. Joy, Pa. Daniel B. Brubaker, Elizabethtown, Pa.

Rapho District, Pa., Mastersonville Meeting House. Trustees: Joseph Brubaker, Mastersonville, Pa., John P. Ginder, Mastersonville, Pa. Daniel B. Wolgemuth, Manheim, Pa.

Dauphin and Lebanon Districts, Pa., Fairland Meeting House. Trustees: Bishop J. K. Kreider, Lebanon, Pa., R. F. D. No. 3. Joseph L. Kreider, Lebanon, Pa., R. F. D. No. 3. ———

Hummelstown Meeting House. Trustees: S. E. Brehm, Hummelstown, Pa. A. B. Musser, Harrisburg, Pa. Frank L. Basehore, Hummelstown, Pa.

Dauphin and Lebanon Districts, Pa., Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home and Messiah Home Orphanage, Harrisburg, Pa. Trustees: John S. Engle, Hummelstown, Pa. Eli M. Eshelman, Florin, Pa. Eli M. Engle, Columbia, Pa., R. F. D. No. 1. Henry K. Kreider, Campbellstown, Pa. John Leininger, Good Hope, Pa.

Cumberland District, Pa., Mechanicsburg Meeting House. Trustees: Amos Hurst, Shiremanstown, Pa. Levi Heisey, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Henry Heisey, Williams' Mills, Pa.

Cumberland District, Pa., Boiling Springs Meeting House. Trustees: John B. Niesley, Carlisle, Pa. Abraham B. Neisly, Carlisle, Pa. Alvin Gottschall, Boiling Springs, Pa.

North Franklin District, Pa., Air Hill Meeting House. Trustees: Bishop M. H. Oberholser, Culbertson, Pa. John Hile, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 2. John M. Wingert, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 2.

North Franklin District, Mt. Rock Meeting House. Trustees: Henry O. Wingert, Cham-

bersburg, Pa. Abraham O. Wingert, Chambersburg, Pa. Jacob O. Wingert, Chambersburg, Pa.

North Franklin District, Pa., Pleasant Hill Meeting House. Trustees: John L. Snoke, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 3. Simon Baker, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 3. Samuel S. Burkholder, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 5.

North Franklin District Pa., Mauersville Meeting House. Trustees: John Asper, ———. James Hanlen, ———. John H. Brechbill, Leemaster, Pa.

North Franklin District, Pa., Antrim Meeting House. Trustees: Joseph Sollenberger, Greencastle, Pa. Joseph Byers, Clay Hill, Pa.

South Franklin District, Pa., Montgomery Meeting House. Trustees: Benjamin Meyers, Upland, Pa. Michael Plum, Upland, Pa. ———

South Franklin District, Pa., Gilford Meeting House. Trustees: Isaac L. Brechbill, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 1. Albert H. Hess, Chambersburg, Pa., R. F. D. No. 2. ———

Lykens District, Pa., Keefer's Meeting House, or Free Grace Church. Trustees: John A. Keefer, Rife, Pa. A. B. Lauver, Millersburg, Pa. J. D. Keefer, Rife, Pa.

Morrison's Cove District, Pa., Martinsburg Meeting House, Martinsburg, Pa. Trustees: Andrew Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. David Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. Andrew B. Stern, Martinsburg, Pa.

Morrison's Cove District, Pa., Woodbury Meeting House, Bedford county, Pa. Trustees:

Andrew Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. David Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. Andrew B. Stern, Martinsburg, Pa.

Morrison's Cove District, Pa., Baker's Summit Meeting House, Blair county, Pa. Trustees: Andrew Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. David Stoner, Martinsburg, Pa. Andrew B. Stern, Martinsburg, Pa.

Morrison's Cove District, Pa., Spring Hope Meeting House, Bedford county, Pa. Trustees: Andrew Miller, Spring Hope, Pa. Henry Miller, Helexville, Pa. Andrew B. Stern, Martinsburg, Pa.

Art. 10. Joint Council of the State of Kansas, U. S. A., petitioned General Conference, praying that the church organization in the State of Kansas and the districts including Arizona, California Mission and Oklahoma, which are under the supervision of the church in Kansas, be admitted to the original church corporation, as incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania. The purpose and object of the petition was set forth in detail. After careful consideration, the petition was granted and ordered to be recorded on the records of the General Secretary of the Church.

Art. 11. Joint Council of the State of Kansas, U. S. A., petitioned General Conference to put on record the names and locations of the following church properties and to confirm the names of the custodians or trustees as follows:

Clay County Meeting House, Clay county, Kans. _____.

Zion Church, North Dickinson county, Kans.

Trustees: Aaron Zook, Abilene, Kans. Millard G. Engle, Abilene, Kans. _____.

Bethel Church, North Dickinson county, Kans. Trustees: A. M. Engle, Moonlight, Kans. S. H. Bert, Moonlight, Kans. P. H. Bert, Moonlight, Kans.

Abilene Church, Abilene, Kans. Trustees: Isaac Shockey, Abilene, Kans. J. K. Forney, Abilene, Kans. C. O. Musser, Abilene, Kans.

Newburn Church, South Dickinson county, Kans. Trustees: John M. Engle, Acme, Kans. Lineas L. Engle, Acme, Kans. Harry S. Engle, Acme, Kans.

Bell Spring Church, South Dickinson county, Kans. Trustees: John G. Engle, Donegal, Kans. A. K. Bassler, Navarre, Kans. Henry Bowers, Hope, Kans.

Rosebank Church, South Dickinson county, Kans. Trustees: Adam L. Book, Hope, Kans. John Keiffer. A. H. Nissley, Ramona, Kans.

Brown County Church, Brown county, Kans. Trustees: A. J. Heisy, Hamlin, Kans. J. P. Kern, Hamlin, Kans. _____.

Harvey county, Kans., (Sedgwick). Trustees: Samuel Shirk, Sedgwick, Kans. Joseph Eshleman, Sedgwick, Kans. _____.

Oklahoma Bethany, Thomas, Okla. Trustees: David Book, Thomas, Okla. David Kraybill, Thomas, Okla. _____.

Bethel Church, Upland, Cal. Trustees: C. C. Burkholder, Upland, Cal. Christ Wenger, Upland, Cal. J. B. Leaman, _____.

Art. 12. Sec. 1—The Board of Publication presented the Ev. Visitor report as follows: Received from subscriptions for Ev.

Visitor from May 1, 1903, to May 1, 1904,	\$1,411 16
Received as donation to Benevolent Fund,	24 55

Total receipts, \$1,435 71

Disbursements.

Central Printing Co.,	\$888 55
Credit on Transfers,	11 45
Stamps and Stationery,	14 05
Editor's Salary,	420 00
Visitor Mailing,	45 94

1,379 99

Balance in favor of Visitor, \$55 72

Balance on hand May 1, 1903, 404 92

Balance on hand, Old Type, etc., 48 63

Balance on hand May 1, 1904, \$509 27

The report of the Editor shows that on May 15, 1904, there are 1,564 names on the subscription list; 79 on the Charity list; 24 on the Exchange list; 25 individual and institution list; 23 on Foreign Mission list. Total number issued, 1,716.

Sec. 2. The Board recommended to retain Bro. George Detweiler as Editor for the ensuing Conference year.

Sec. 3. The Board recommended to continue the subscription price of the Ev. Visitor the same as last year, viz., to furnish it at 75 cents per year to persons who wish to donate it to new parties and allow a rebate of 10 per cent. on regular subscriptions to clubs of ten or more.

Sec. 4. The Board recommended that persons should be appointed throughout the different districts by the Bishops in charge whose duty it shall be to look after the interests of the Ev. Visitor, and make special efforts to see that subscriptions are promptly paid. The Board recommended to retain Bishops W. O. Baker and M. H. Oberholser as associate editors for the following Conference year.

Art. 13. Conference approved the financial report and confirmed the appointments and recommendations of the Board of Publication.

Art. 14. Conference authorized and instructed the Editor of the Ev. Visitor to prohibit any matter being published in the Ev. Visitor that would conflict with the doctrine as taught and believed in by the brotherhood.

Art. 15. Conference considered the advisability of admitting the Church in Canada to the new organization as incorporated in the U. S. A. After some lengthy counselling, it was decided to grant a request from the Canada delegation to defer the matter, and that the question shall be considered at the different district councils, and their conclusions presented to General Conference of 1905 for final action.

Art. 16. Conference granted a petition to publish the Constitution and By-Laws as adopted by this Conference, together with a condensed form of the work of previous Conferences, and with an appendix setting forth the Confession of Faith and articles of sanctification as previously adopted in a number sufficient to distribute throughout the brotherhood.

Art. 17. Conference appointed Eli M. Engle,

Henry Kreider and S. R. Smith, a committee to proceed with the work of publishing the new Constitution and By-Laws, as set forth under Article 16; with a provision that the committee shall be authorized to borrow money on behalf of the Church, to defray the publication expenses until the money can be realized from sales.

Art. 18. A report from Dayton District, Ohio, stated that the members of said District, in Council assembled, mutually agreed to divide the District in three parts, making three Districts; and elected the following brethren to supervise the work of the church, until General Conference shall relieve them, as follows:

Clark County, Bishop J. B. Wingert.

Montgomery County, Bro. Harvey Miller.

Miama County, Bro. Jno. Hocker.

Conference decided that Bishops B. F. Hoover and Jno. A. Stump shall be retained in their present position to supervise the work in Dayton District, until the Districts as subdivided, shall be fully organized, and also confirmed the work and report of the districts as before stated.

Art. 19. A petition to establish a Bible School was considered, and decided to defer further consideration until a later session of this Conference.

Art. 20. A question was presented, asking whether a member withdrawing from the church should be given a letter of recommendation. Decided that each District shall act on such cases, as the merits of the case may warrant.

Art. 21. A petition to exempt Elkhart, Ind.,

District from assisting in defraying expenses that will hereafter arise, from church litigation, was not granted.

Art. 22. A petition from the church in Illinois, asking to be admitted as a part of the original corporation, as incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania, was granted, and the General Secretary was ordered to place the same on the general record of the church, together with the names of the houses of worship, and their respective trustees, as required by the Constitution and By-Laws. The names of the trustees to be presented to Conference of 1905 for confirmation.

Art. 23. The trustees of the Altoona, Iowa, church property, reported the sale of the same for \$500, less commission \$20 and other improvements, \$33.60, amounting to a total of \$53.60; leaving a net balance of \$546.40. The report was approved.

Art. 24. A petition to appropriate the fund of the net proceeds derived from the sale of the Altoona, Iowa, church property, to build a house of worship at Laporte City, Iowa, was referred to Article 41, of General Conference of 1903.

Art. 25. A question was presented, asking how to prevent conformity to the world in the Church, was referred to Article 29, of By-Laws as adopted by this Conference, which treats on "essential qualifications for Christian living."

Art. 25. The resignation of S. R. Smith as trustee of the Des Moines, Iowa, Church and Mission properties was accepted.

Art. 27. Conference appointed Bro. J. B.

Knupp, of Garison, Iowa, trustee of the Des Moines Mission property, and Bro. Albert Gnagy, of Dysert, Iowa, trustee of the Des Moines Church property.

Art. 28. S. R. Smith, appointed under Article 22, of Conference of 1903, gave a statement of his work in connection with raising money to liquidate the Des Moines Church and Mission property indebtedness, as follows:

Total amount received to May 18, 1904,	\$2,377 87
Total amount paid on outstanding notes,	2,368 50
Balance, less postage and stationery on hand,	\$9 37
Total amount of Des Moines debt, including interest and compound interest to June 1, 1904,	\$2,677 87
Amount paid from collections,	2,368 50
Balance of debt to June 1, 1904,....	\$309 37

Conference granted Bro. Smith the privilege to deduct from money received the expenses incurred by postage and stationery.

Conference approved the report, and authorized and advised the delegates present to present the matter to their respective Districts, and make immediate efforts to collect the money needed to liquidate the balance of the debt, and send it to S. R. Smith, Harrisburg, Pa., who was ordered to be retained as receiver until the debt is liquidated.

Art. 29. A petition from Kansas Joint Council was presented to Conference for confirmation

of the election of Bro. I. J. Ransom as minister of the Gospel, was considered, and, on motion, referred to a committee of seven to investigate the petition and report to Conference for action. Committee, Bishop Aaron Martin, Bishop Charles Baker, Bishop John A. Stump, Bishop Henry R. Heisey, Bishop Isaac Stern, Bishop Jonathan Wert and Abram Z. Hess.

Art. 30. A petition was presented, asking that Upland, California, Mission shall be privileged to become a fully organized District, was considered and referred to the Church in Kansas, under whose supervision the California Mission is conducted, with instructions to proceed in the matter as the Church in Kansas will decide as proper—with a provision that the traveling expenses of the Bishop, who will officiate if the District shall be organized, shall be paid out of the Treasury of the Home Mission Board.

Art. 31. A question was presented as to the propriety of a Bishop going into another Bishop's District and ordain an applicant for Home Mission Work, who was examined by the Examining Board, and recommended for Home Mission Work, without the co-operation of the resident Bishop; after consideration it was decided that wisdom and discretion should be used in such cases, and further recommended that such cases hereafter shall be governed as outlined under Article 9, Section 2, and Article 10, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws as adopted by this Conference.

Art. 32. A petition to remodel the Article of Sanctification as previously adopted and published, was considered and referred to a commit-

tee of seven to consider the same and report to Conference. Committee, Bishop Samuel Baker, Bishop Jonas Wingert, Bishop Henry B. Hoffer, Bishop John Wildfong, D. V. Heise, Bishop J. N. Engle, A. M. Engle.

Art. 33. A request from Markham District, Ont., to have General Conference every fourth year in Canada, instead of every three years as heretofore, was granted.

Art. 34. A question was presented to Conference whether a minister of the Gospel has any Scriptural authority to lay hands on Christian believers for the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Decided there is Scriptural authority.

Art. 35. The petition deferred from Article 19 of this Conference, was considered and decided as follows: That a committee of seven be appointed to investigate the advisability of establishing a Bible School, and report to General Conference of 1905. Committee, Bishop Aaron Martin, Bishop Jonathan Wert, Bishop Jacob N. Engle, Bishop H. R. Heise, D. V. Heise and S. R. Smith.

Art. 36. Conference appointed a committee of seven to appoint brethren to serve on the following Boards for the ensuing Conference year. Committee, Bishop Aaron Martin, Bishop Jonathan Wert, Bishop Charles Baker, Bishop H. R. Heise, John B. Neisley, H. K. Kreider and S. R. Smith.

Art. 37. The Committee on Appointments reported as follows, which was confirmed.

Sec. 1. Examining Board—

Bishop Charles Baker, Nottawa, Ont.
Bishop M. H. Oberholser, Culbertson, Pa.
Bishop J. N. Engle, Navarre, Kans.

Sec. 2. Foreign Mission Board—

Bishop Jno. A. Stump, Napanee, Ind.
P. M. Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont.
Peter Steckley, Bethesda, Ont.
Eli M. Engle, Columbia, Pa., R. F. D. No. 1.
John B. Neisley, Carlisle, Pa.
A. M. Engle, 62 Vincent St., Dayton, O.
J. R. Zook, Des Moines, Iowa.

Sec. 3. Home Mission Board—

W. J. Myers, Sippo, Ohio.
Saxton Bowers, Canton, Ohio.
Samuel Whisler, Ashland, Ohio, R. F. D. No. 1.

George Detweiler, 1185 Bailey street, Harrisburg, Pa.

Abram Z. Hess, Mt. Joy, Pa.
H. K. Kreider, Campbelltown, Pa.
H. L. Trump, Polo, Ill.
J. M. Sheetz, Moonlight, Kans.
John R. Herr, Abilene, Kans., R. F. D. No. 2.
Daniel Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont.
Myron Taylor, Imlay City, Mich.
Isaac Swalm, Nottawa, Ont.

Sec. 4. Publication Board—

S. E. Brehm, Hummelstown, Pa.
A. B. Musser, 68 N. Twelfth street, Harrisburg, Pa.
D. V. Heise, Clarence Centre, N. Y.
Aaron Zook, Abilene, Kans.
H. R. Heise, Victoria Square, Ont.
M. L. Hoffman, Abilene, Kans.
Orvie Ulerv. New Carlisle, O., R. F. D. No. 4.

Art. 38. A report of A. B. Musser, Treasurer of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home, and Messiah Home Orphanage, of Harrisburg, Pa., was presented and approved, as follows:

Balance in Treasury, May 1, 1903.....	\$1,417 36
Received from admissions during Conference year,	400 00
Contributions and other receipts dur- ing Conference year,	563 93
Total,	<u>\$2,381 29</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

House expenses and other incidentals, 1,122 54

Balance in Treasury, May 1, 1904... \$1,258 75

A financial report of the Messiah Home Orphanage was also submitted by A. B. Musser, Treasurer, as follows:

Balance indebtedness, May 1, 1903...	\$492 62
House expenses and other incidentals during Conference year,	719 29

Total indebtedness and expenses, .. \$1,211 91

Received from contributions during
Conference year, \$119 74

State appropriation, 375 00

Interest of Endowment Fund, 50 00

544 74

Balance debt May 1, 1904, \$567 17

The Messiah Home Orphanage En-
dowment Fund, May 1, 1904, \$1,800 00

A written report was also presented by the Secretary, stating that there are at present 19 inmates at the Home, not including Stewart, Matron and attendants. The report also stated in detail the nature of the work, and that seem-

ingly the Home is under divine sanction. A statement was made concerning the needs of the Orphanage, that not only money is necessary, but provisions and clothing. Conference concurred in the report that efforts should be made throughout the Brotherhood at large to forward such supplies as are necessary for the sustentation of the Orphanage, in order that the work can be enlarged, and many crying needs can be heeded from such orphans who are destitute and in want.

Art. 39. A written report of the financial standing of the Chicago Mission was presented and approved as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Received cash contributions during last Conference year, ending May 31, 1904, with balance of \$6.97 on hand year ending May 31, 1904,	\$583 56
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EXPENDITURES.

Expenditures during last Conference year ending May 31, 1904,	<u>\$590 19</u>
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Balance due Mission, May 31, 1904,	\$6 63
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Received for special Coal Fund from free-will offerings,	\$48 00
Expended for coal,	48 00

The above financial report was accompanied by a written explanation of the work, stating that a Sunday-school was organized, meeting every Sunday morning at 10 a. m. with about 175 attendants, followed by services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. The statement further says, that

a Young Women's Society and a Young Women's Bible Class meets during the week, which is principally for unmarried women, and is conducted by Sister Sarah Bert. The purpose of these meetings are to help young women in their Christian lives in the midst of wickedness and dangers of a great city, where many snares are laid for them. Every Thursday evening is occupied by prayer-meeting and testimony services, as well as a Young Men's Bible Class, which meets on the same evening and is conducted by Bro. Cress. The object of this meeting is to help young men in their Christian lives, and to meet and discuss freely the problem of life, and to develop a strong useful manhood, which shall be consecrated to Christ. The above report was approved and ordered to be inserted in the minutes in a condensed form.

Art. 40. Conference then appointed Bro. B. L. Brubaker, Superintendent, and wife Lizzie, Assistant Superintendent; Sister Sarah Bert, Secretary, and Sister Anna Bert, Treasurer of the Chicago Mission.

Art. 41. A report of the financial condition of the Des Moines Mission was presented and approved. The report is as follows:

Total amount of expenses including fuel, groceries, water rent, etc.,	\$291 24
House rent,	183 40

Total expenditures,	\$474 64
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Total amount cash receipts during last Conference year,	\$340 58
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Balance due Mission May 1, 1904,	\$134 06
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Conference ordered the balance of \$134.06 due the Des Moines Mission to be paid out of Home Mission Fund. It will be noticed by referring to the expense items, that the house rent is \$183.40. An explanation of this was given by the Mission Overseers stating that if the rent, as stated, could be eliminated, the Mission would be more than self-sustaining; reference was made, stating that other Missions which are self-sustaining have no rents to pay; hence, Conference urged that steps should be taken toward eliminating the yearly rental. However, no decisive method was outlined.

Art. 42. Sec. 1. The Trustees of Des Moines Church and Mission properties presented a report, stating that all the heirs of the late Chas. Good donated the Mission property building on Second and Grand avenue, which was sold for \$200.00; and a lot 52½ feet front by 280 feet deep on Ninth street, Des Moines, Ia., for which they paid \$2,600.00, to be used for Mission purposes; together with \$410.00 cash money to be used for improvements on the Mission lot. This donation, apart from the Mission property, amounted to \$3,010.00. Accompanying this statement was a report as follows:

Amount received for Mission building, ..	\$200 00
Received for rent,	50 00
Received for improvements on donated lot, as above stated,	410 00

Total cash received for Mission im- provements,	\$660 00
Paid for transfer of insurance policy,	\$5 00

Paid for recording deed,	I 50
Total expenditures on Mission donation,	\$5 50

Net amount in treasury to be used for improvements on donated lot, \$553 50

The report further stated that the \$3,010, out of which the said lot was purchased for \$2,600.00, which left a balance of \$410.00 for improvements, was donated by Elder S. M. Good and wife and Dr. C. Nysewonder and wife, heirs of the late Elder Charles Good, deceased; and it is their desire that what is left over the above said purchase money, of said lot, is to be used for improving the lot for Mission purposes. There is a dwelling house on the lot which brings nearly \$25.00 per month rent, which is to be applied to Mission improvements. It is also reported that the donors requested the Trustees of said property to sign receipts covering this donation. The request was ordered to be granted.

Sec. 2. Following the foregoing report, Conference ordered that the following resolution shall be placed on the minutes of this Conference, as follows:

WHEREAS, Conference of the Brethren in Christ, of the U. S. A. and Canada, in session convened, May 18, 19, 20, 1904, at Stayner, Ont., realizing that the aforesaid heirs of the late Elder Charles Good, deceased, were prompted by the spirit of love to God, and to the Church, to donate said properties, etc., for the purpose of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in saving souls.

Resolved, Therefore, that this Conference ex-

press her thankfulness to God, and to the heirs of the late Elder Charles Good, deceased, for their act of kindness in donating said properties and money for the use of Gospel and Mission Work, and,

Resolved, That this resolution shall be inscribed on the annals of the Church of the Brethren in Christ.

Art. 43. Bro. J. R. Zook and wife Anna Zook were reappointed as Overseers, and Bro. Max Mahler as Assistant Overseer, of the Des Moines, Ia., Mission.

Art. 44. A petition from Pennsylvania State Council praying, to arrange some method by which the Des Moines Mission can be supported without incurring shortages, which of late years have been repeatedly presented to General Conference was considered, and, on motion, decided to refer the matter to the Home Mission Board to see that such steps are taken that deficiencies at Des Moines Mission, hereafter if any, can be met without calling for special offerings. This petition was also referred to the conclusion of Article 41.

Art. 45. Bro. Whisler, Overseer of the Buffalo Mission, gave a verbal report of the work at the Mission, which was of a praise-worthy nature. The report was approved.

Art. 46. A written report was read, which was forwarded by Bro. Jonathan Lyons, Owosso, Mich., R. F. D. No. 8, wherein he gave a detailed account of the conditions of the Carland Mission, which were of an encouraging nature. Following this report, comments were made by several members of Conference, stating that Carland Mission is abounding in good results the

last few years, and asked that General Conference should call for a hearty support, especially for help in services at Carland Mission. The report was approved.

Art. 47. A petition, requesting that General Conference shall take immediate steps towards recognition of Sister Bertha Boulter's work in Virginia, was considered, and decided that the Home Mission Board shall look into the matter of supplying a minister and wife to assist Sister Boulter in her work at Wachapreague, Va.

Art. 48. A personal petition of Bro. Benjamin Gish was presented to Conference, asking the privilege to establish a Mission in St. Louis, Mo., during the Summer of 1904, was considered, and decided that Bro. Gish shall have the privilege to engage in Mission Work in St. Louis, as requested, with the provision that he can call on some talented workers to assist him in the Mission Work as stated.

Art. 49. The Foreign Mission Board presented a report of the financial condition of Matopopo Mission, near Bulawayo, South Africa, through H. P. Steigerwald, Treasurer, and H. Frances Davidson, Secretary, as follows:

MATOPPO MISSION.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1903.

GENERAL FUND.

Sec. 1. Receipts.

Amount on hand from 1902,	\$410 92
U. S. A. Treasury,	400 00
Marketing, etc.,	283 40
S. S. donation,	7 45
Total,	\$1,101 77

Expenses.

Household,	\$441 75
Personal,	66 82
Native labor,	141 85
Native trade, food for boys, etc.,	227 90
Freight and hardware,	134 55
Other expenses,	88 90
Total,	\$1,101 77

SPECIAL FUND.

Sec. 2. Receipts.

Amount on hand from 1902,	\$704 90
U. S. A. Treasury,	200 00
Total,	\$904 90

Expenses,

Building material,	\$300 00
Native labor,	53 90
	\$353 90
Balance on hand,	\$551 00

MATOPPO MISSION.

TOTAL EXPENSE OF BUILDING HOUSE.

Sec. 3. Receipts.

U. S. A. Treasury,	\$2,259 00
Private donations,	27 00
Total,	\$2,286 00

Sec. 4. Expenses.

Building material,	\$1,436 45
Native labor,	257 95

Tools, 40 60

Total, \$1,735 00

Balance on hand December 31, 1903.. \$551 00

The cost of the building is considerably more than was estimated at first. This is due to several causes, among which are the great expense of building material and wooden floors in four rooms. The house is also somewhat larger and much more substantially built than was at first expected. Every one here who knows anything about building regards the cost as extremely low.

The Church building will soon be commenced.

It will be seen that the General Expenses of 1903 are higher than of 1902. This is owing to several causes.

First. Under *Household* expenses, it was necessary to purchase some furniture for the new house, which, like everything else here, is expensive. Fortunately this extra expense was met by the produce from the cows which are at present on the place. The income therefrom is included under the head of *Marketing* which is also higher than usual.

Second. *Native Trade and Food for Boys*, etc. The drought last year caused both our crops and those of the natives to fail, and we were obliged to purchase meal and grain for the fowls at high price all the year.

Under *Freight* is included the duty and freight on the boxes sent out, which amount to nearly \$100.00.

H. P. STEIGERWALD,
Treasurer.
H. FRANCES DAVIDSON,
Secretary.

(30)

Sec. 5. The Matoppo Mission report was approved, and Conference gave recognition of the work, by tendering a vote of thanks to God and the Mission Workers, for the effective work that is done at Matoppo Mission. The vote of thanks was confirmed by a unanimous rising congregational vote.

Following this report, Sister H. Frances Davidson, who lately returned from Matoppo Mission, South Africa, prior to her intending going further in the interior, gave a verbal statement of the work at the Matoppo Mission, which was very interesting and inspiring.

Sec. 6. The Foreign Mission Board presented a statement from the Treasurer, George Detweiler, as follows:

Total amount received to	
Conference of 1903,	\$4,937 69
Amount received during last	
Conference year,	1,078 77

Total amount received	
since fund started, ...	\$6,016 45
Total amount paid out up	
to Conference of 1903,....	\$4,294 93
Amount forwarded to Ma-	
toppo Mission during last	
Conference year,	480 85

Total amount forwarded	
to Matoppo Mission	
since fund started,	\$4,775 78

Amount in Treasury close	
of Conference year, May	
18, 1904,	\$1,240 68

(31)

MATOPPO MISSION SPECIAL FUND.

Sec. 7.

Total amount received to	
Conference 1904,	\$2,559 22
Total amount forwarded to	
Matoppo Mission, includ-	
ing bank expenses,	<u>2,461.37</u>
Balance on hand, Con-	
ference 1904,	\$97 85

The Matoppo Mission Special Fund was used for building a dwelling house, which has been erected principally through the labors of the Mission Workers.

A resolution was presented by the Foreign Mission Board praying General Conference to pay the return expenses of Sister Frances Davidson from South Africa. Sister Davidson being present, kindly asked Conference not to grant that concession, since the Lord has provided the means for her return. Sister Davidson's request was granted, with a request from Conference that Sister Davidson should be encouraged by all who feel that it is their duty to contribute towards her expenses while staying in this country. The Foreign Mission Board also presented a resolution praying General Conference to encourage the work of creating a fund for supplying material and support for the native workers. The report of the Foreign Mission Board as presented was ordered by Conference to be placed on the minutes in detail.

Art. 50. Sec. 1. The Home Mission Board presented a statement from their Treasurer, Saxton Bowers, as follows:

Balance in Treasury May 21,	
1903,	\$152 41
Received from Richland and Ash-	
land District, O.,	6 00
Received from Morrison's Cove	
District, Pa.,	14 80
C. A. Stouffer, Smithville, O.,...	3 00
Dayton District, O.,	41 50
South Franklin District, Pa.,...	35 25
Bell Springs, Kans., Sunday-	
school,	9 27
Dysert, Ia.,	12 00
In His Name,	3 00
Cash,	2 00
Donegal District, Pa.,	11 50
Rapho District, Pa.,	14 00
Manor District, Pa.,	25 00
Sister Davidson,	<u>2 00</u>

Total, \$331 73

Expenditures during last Conference
year, 54 64

Balance on hand, Conference 1904,.... \$277 09

Sec. 2.

POOR FUND.

Balance in Treasury, May 20, 1903,....	\$254 20
Received from interest,	<u>7 50</u>

Total, \$261 70

Paid during Conference year, 50 00

Balance in Treasury, Conference 1904, \$211 70

Art. 51. The Foreign Mission Board pre-

sented a resolution, praying General Conference to take immediate steps towards establishing a Mission in India. This resolution was referred to Article 33, Section 4, of Conference minutes of 1903, with a request that the Foreign Mission Board, which under the new Constitution and By-Laws takes the place of the Foreign Mission Operative Board, shall see about making arrangements as requested in the petition.

Art. 52. Sister H. Frances Davidson, who lately returned from Matopopo Mission, Bulawayo, South Africa, made a personal plea that Conference should take immediate steps towards raising a fund to purchase a tract of land from the British Government in South Africa farther south than the Matopopo Mission, which she stated could be bought for about \$1.25 per acre, to establish another Mission, as she stated it was a very suitable place. Conference considered the advisability of raising a fund to make the purchase and granted a request to immediately start a subscription, which at the close of Conference amounted to about \$500.00. The funds subscribed were placed in the hands of Bro. P. M. Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont., Foreign Mission Treasurer, to whom all remittances and subscriptions can be sent by those who desire to subscribe to the fund.

Art. 53. The Committee appointed under Article 32 of this Conference, reported that in their investigation they did not find sufficient reason for remodeling the Article of Sanctification as previously accepted and published. Conference approved the report.

Art. 54. The committee appointed under Article 29 of this Conference, reported the ad-

visability of appointing a committee of seven to further investigate the advisability of confirming the election of I. J. Ransom, as presented from Kansas Joint Council of 1904, as a minister of the gospel, with the provision that the Committee act as soon as possible, and be empowered to accept or reject the confirmation. Conference accepted the report and ordered the original committee under Article 29 to be retained.

Art. 55. The Examining Board examined and recommended the following for Foreign Mission Workers: Bro. Amos L. Musser and wife, Bro. Henry Angeny and Sister Maggie Landis. The candidates as presented by the Examining Board were confirmed by Conference and the Foreign Mission Board was instructed to recognize the said candidates as Foreign Mission workers.

Art. 56. A petition to Conference to take action towards establishing a permanent Conference Secretary was considered and decided to amend the new Constitution and By-Laws as adopted by this Conference, to read as follows: Art. 31, Constitution and By-Laws, Sec. 1. General Conference of the Brethren in Christ shall appoint a permanent Conference Secretary, who may be appointed from year to year, or life time, or good behavior, to whom all petitions, questions and applications for consideration in Conference shall be forwarded immediately after May 1st preceding General Conference, as well as all Foreign and Home Mission Reports.

Sec. 2. The permanent Conference Secretary shall tabulate petitions and questions in proper form for action of Conference, and present them in the form of resolutions, thereby expediting the work of General Conference.

Sec. 3. The permanent Conference Secretary necessarily should not be Recording Conference Secretary, but is to have the oversight of Conference work, pertaining to questions, petitions and reports that shall be considered, and as to how they shall be reported in their consecutive order for consideration.

Sec. 4. The expenses incurred from corresponding, etc., by the permanent Conference Secretary shall be paid out of the general treasury.

Art. 57. A petition was presented to Conference to amend Article 7 of the Constitution and By-Laws, as adopted by this Conference, was considered and approved, to read as follows: Amendment to Article 7 of Constitution and By-Laws. The General Treasurer shall also have a separate fund, out of which shall be paid such as expenses incurred by the General Secretary for correspondence and travelling expenses, providing there are any, that are ordered either by State Council or General Conference. Such fund is to be obtained by making an apportionate assessment on the different Districts throughout the Church as may be ordered either by Pennsylvania State Council, or General Conference; such assessments to be made by the General Executive Board.

Art. 58. By virtue of an amendment under Article 56 of this Conference, to the new Constitution and By-Laws, Conference elected S. R. Smith as permanent Conference Secretary for an indefinite time, with the instruction that he shall proceed in Conference work as outlined under Article 31, Sections 1, 2 and 3, New Constitution.

Art. 59. Conference ordered the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to organize at once and

report their organization for publication in the Minutes of this Conference.

Art. 60. Home Mission Board organization as follows:

Sec. 1. George Detweiler, 1185 Bailey street, Harrisburg, Pa., Chairman.

Isaac Swalm, Nottawa, Ont., Assistant Chairman.

Saxton Bowers, Canton, O., Treasurer.

J. R. Herr, Abilene, Kans., Secretary.

Sec. 2. The Home Mission Board assigned the following territory:

Markham and Nottawa Districts, Ont., Isaac Swalm.

Waterloo and East Michigan Districts, Myron Taylor.

Black Creek District, Ont., Daniel Climenhaga.

Silverdale District and Lancaster county, Pa., Abraham Z. Hess.

Dauphin, Lebanon and Lykens Valley Districts, Pa., Henry Kreider.

Cumberland, Franklin, Juniata and Morrison's Cove Districts, Pa., George Detweiler.

Stark County District, Ohio, Saxton Bowers.

Wayne County and Old Dayton District, Ohio. W. J. Myers.

Ashland and Richland Districts, Ohio, and Elkhart District, Ind., Samuel Whisler.

Illinois, Iowa, Districts, H. L. Trump.

North Dickinson, Clay and Brown county Districts, Kans., J. M. Sheetz.

South Dickinson, Oklahoma and the West, J. R. Herr.

Art. 61. The Foreign Mission Board organization reported as follows:

Sec. 1. J. R. Zook, Des Moines, Ia., Chairman.

A. M. Engle, 62 Vincent street, Dayton, Ohio,
Assistant Chairman.

P. M. Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont., Treasurer.

Eli M. Engle, Columbia, Pa., Secretary.

Sec. 2. The Foreign Mission Board assigned the territory as follows:

Markham and Nottawa Districts, Ont., Peter Steckley.

Black Creek and Waterloo Districts, Ont., Peter M. Climenhaga.

Cumberland, Franklin, Center Counties and Morrison's Cove Districts, Pa., John B. Neisly.

Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Dauphin, Juniata Counties and Lykens Valley Districts, Pa., Eli M. Engle.

Ohio and that part of Indiana belonging to Montgomery District, A. M. Engle.

Indiana and Illinois, J. A. Stump.

All territory west of Mississippi River, J. R. Zook.

Art. 62. Conference passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, our kind Father in heaven in His infinite wisdom and love, has called our dearly beloved Bishops Samuel Zook and Abraham Wingert from service to their reward, and inasmuch that we so keenly feel our great loss, because of their ability and loving usefulness in the Brotherhood, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Church humbly submits to the divine providence of God, believing that the Lord in His mercy was just as kind in their removal as He was in giving them to us.

The above resolution was ordered to be inscribed on the Minutes of this Conference.

Art. 63. Conference ordered that each delegate and official member representing their respective Districts shall take immediate steps to ascertain the number of copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and Conference Index that are wanted, and shall report at once to the Publishing Committee as authorized under Article 17 of this Conference.

Art. 64. Conference authorized the permanent Conference Secretary to confer with different districts throughout the Brotherhood to ascertain a suitable location for Conference of 1905 to be reported not later than October 1, 1904.

Art. 65. All ordinances which were passed at this Conference were ordered to become a part of the original By-Laws as adopted at this Conference, with the instructions that the amendments shall be published with the publication of Constitution and By-Laws.

Art. 66. Conference ordered the following resolution to be inscribed on the Minutes of this Conference:

WHEREAS, We, members of Conference, appreciate the kindness tendered to us in so bountifully supplying our needs while in attendance at this Conference by the Brethren and Sisters of Nottawa District.

Resolved, That this Conference tenders a heartfelt vote of thanks to the Brethren and Sisters of Nottawa District, and other Districts which appropriated to the support of Conference, for their kindness manifested in so bountifully providing for the needs of members of Conference and all those who were in attendance.

General Conference of the Brethren in Christ of 1904 has passed into history, and while the work before Conference was lengthy and arduous, the consolation is that God through it may be honored and glorified, and that the cause of saving souls may be furthered on, and that love and unity may be made to abound more sincerely. After singing the doxology, Conference adjourned to meet on third Wednesday of May, 1905, at a location to be announced not later than October 1, 1904.

S. R. SMITH,
Secretary.

W. O. BAKER,
Moderator.