

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD 1921.

The Executive Board of the Brethren in Christ African Conference met at Matope Mission Feb. 23-Mar. 1, 1921, and passed upon the following:

ARTICLE ONE

In the absence of Bro. Lehman Bro. Steckley appointed in his stead to act for the present meeting.

ARTICLE TWO. IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST FROM MACHA.

Decided that the next African Conference be held at Macha, beginning Aug. 15, 1921, and that a Bible Conference be held in connection with the same; also that a week's meetings and conference be held with the natives.

ARTICLE THREE. REGARDING HOME OF MISSIONARY IN CHARGE OF OUTSCHOOLS.

Decided that the home of the missionary in charge of the out-schools be in Bulawayo for the present; also that a hut and stable for his use be erected at Fred Mine or at Bala Bala.

ARTICLE FOUR. FUNDS FOR BRO. FREY

Whereas, Bro. Frey has been given charge of the out-schools, and it has been arranged for him to remove from Matope Mission,

Resolved, that we request the F.M. Board to send direct to him all necessary funds for the maintenance of his family and the support of the schools.

ARTICLE FIVE. REGARDING INSTITUTION FOR NATIVE TEACHERS.

Decided not to have one for all the teachers this year; but Bro. Frey be given the privilege to conduct one or more on a smaller scale among the out-schools.

ARTICLE SIX. PRESBYTERIAN WORK.

In regard to taking over the Presbyterian work adjoining ours, which work is about to be closed down,

Decided that Bro. Steigerwald and Bro. Frey be appointed a committee to investigate the situation, and if they see fit to do so they may take over the work.

ARTICLE SEVEN. STATUS OF FALLEN MEMBERS.

What shall be the status of fallen members? Shall they enter the Enquirers' Class?

Decided to table the question until the meeting with native teachers.

ARTICLE EIGHT. ROTARY BASIS FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEES.

Decided to recommend to the next African Conference that all standing boards and committees except the Board of "Trustees and Finance" be established on a rotary basis.

ARTICLE NINE. TEACHERS' WAGES.

Recommended that teachers' wages be rearranged according to a sliding scale as follows: 1st. to 3rd. year, 25/- per month; 4th. and 5th. years, 30/-; 6th. and 7th. 35/-; and 8th. year and above, 40/-. Decided to consult the native teachers regarding means for increasing the offerings, before we decided definitely in the matter.

ARTICLE TEN. DEACONS.

It seems that the time is ripe for the election of deacons in the native Church, and the Board at first decided to arrange for doing so, according to Art. 8, Min. of Conf. 1913. After further consideration, however, it did not seem advisable to ordain deacons before we have ordained ministers. The whole question was dropped until the next African Conference, and the Secretary appointed to ascertain the in the meantime the practice of other societies in regard to this question.

ARTICLE ELEVEN. FUNDS FOR BUILDING EXPENSES.

Whereas, Simalongo Mission is greatly in need of a dwelling house, a church and other buildings,

Resolved, that we request the F.M. Board to send sufficient funds to cover expenses of erecting these buildings. The expense of the same cannot be ascertained at present, but we suggest that the sum of Two Hundred Pounds be sent as quickly as convenient, in order that the work may not be delayed.

ARTICLE TWELVE. FURLOUGH

Resolved that Bro. and Sr. Taylor be given a furlough to the coast as soon as arrangements can be made.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN. PETITION FOR WORKERS.

Whereas, because of the extension of our work, there is urgent need for additional workers in the immediate future,

Resolved, that we petition the F.M. Board to send a capable man and wife as soon as possible.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN. LETTER-HEADS.

Resolved that our Chairman be instructed to arrange for the printing of a new supply of letter-heads, according to the same form as before, but making the necessary changes as to names and addresses.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN. GENERAL FIELD-TREASURER.

Whereas, difficulties are continually being experienced in regard to reception and distribution of funds from the F.M. Board,

Resolved, that we present a petition to the next African Conference to consider the advisability of requesting the F.M. Board to arrange for a General Treasurer on the field.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN. PLACING OF NEW WORKERS.

Regarding this,

Decided that Brother and Sr. Climenhaga go to Matopo, Bro. Climenhaga to be head-master of the Training School; Sr. Coon to go to Macha; Sr. Annie Winger to Matopo, and Sr. Lady to stay with Bro. Frey's for the present.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN. TRINITY VACANCIES FILLED.

Bro. Climenhaga appointed to fill vacancy on School Board in absence of Bro. W.C. Winger, and on Tract Committee in absence of Bro. A.C. Winger.

Bro. Steckley appointed to fill vacancy on Building Committee in absence of Bro. A.C. Winger.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN.

Decided that the present liabilities of the P.E.A. work be paid out of the Emergency Fund; and that the cheque for maintenance sent to Bro. Lady deceased, be returned to the F.M. Board with the request that the same be sent to the Emergency Fund.

ARTICLE NINETEEN.

Whereas, Bro. Lehman has urged that the Executive Board consider his proposition that the Church withdraw from the Johannesburg and P.E.A. field, and dispose of all her property there,

Resolved that,

(1) While we realize the advisability of immediate definite action, we do not consider that this Board has power to deal with so important a question, which, if carried out, would mean the giving up by the Church of so large a part of her work in Africa.

(2) Nevertheless, we deem it our duty to present the situation immediately to the F.M. Board, and request immediate attention and a speedy answer,

(3) We deeply regret the situation that has developed; and viewing the situation from the most charitable standpoint, we cannot but consider that Bro. and Sr. Lehman have not dealt fairly with the Church, and have taken advantage of the difficult situation their own actions have brought about.

ARTICLE NINETEEN (CONTINUED)

(4) We cannot regard Bro. Lehman's offer to turn over to the Church the present money values of property as anywise nearly repaying the many thousands of dollars spent on the work in behalf of these fields, nor repaying in the least the energy and effort spent by the Church as a whole on the work there. Neither can any pecuniary consideration compensate in the smallest degree for the very ~~great~~ serious shock to mission work which this situation will bring to the Church as a whole, which shock will be keenly felt in the Rhodesian field.

(5) Since Bro. Lehman has definitely stated his intention of continuing in the work independently of the Church, in the same place as heretofore, and has intimated that any effort on the part of the Church to continue her work there would meet with serious difficulties and embarrassments, and since there have already been serious complications in the work,

We are forced to the conclusion that for the Church to attempt to continue in the work under the increased difficulties would be disheartening and inadvisable.

H.J.Frey, Secretary.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD, JULY 5, 1921

At Matope at time of meeting of teachers and local preachers.

ARTICLE ONE.

In regard to Native Heads, Recommended that the district be divided into three parts and three heads to be appointed the same to be regarded as overseers of their respective districts. The question was afterward put to the Native Church to choose as to whether there should be one or three. They chose the latter, and suggested that the missionaries name the men.

After consultation, the missionaries named Mawogalana Kumalo for the district West of the Tuli, Mankhennie Kumalo for the district East of the Mzingwane, and Nyamazana Dube for the remaining Central District. These men were acceptable to the Conference.

ARTICLE TWO.

Decided that deacons should be elected, by the Native Church, the exact number to be decided later.

ARTICLE THREE.

In regard to the question of Contributions, decided to bring the question before the native teachers. This was afterward done but no definite plan was outlined. The question of the increase of teachers' wages was also considered with the native teachers but as we do not see the means of increasing the contributions, we are also at a loss to increase the wages.

ARTICLE FOUR.

Decided to appoint a committee of three to arrange a course of individual Bible Study (together with examinations) for our native teachers to pursue in their homes, the same committee to arrange for examinations.

ARTICLE FIVE.

The question of fast day was discussed, but nothing definite was decided. Referred to next Conference.

ARTICLE SIX.

Question in regard to the work at Gwanda and the Rev. Mr. Wilson's request.

Decided that we cannot give Mr. Wilson a definite answer at present, but we recommend that he be invited to spend a day at Mshabazi during our General Conference there, where he would have opportunity to discuss the question with the officials of the Church.

H.J.Frey, Secretary.