

1917 September

The workers of Matopo and Mtshabazi Missions met in Conference at Matopo, September 18, 19, 1917. H.F. Steigerwald, Moderator, H.J. Frey, Secretary.

Art. I

Reconsideration of Art. II, March 1917.

Whereas, the F.M. Board has asked the opinion of the S.A. Conference as to whether there could be gotten out a general letter-head for use by all our S. African Stations,

Resolved that we think it possible, and approve of such a letter head.

Resolved also that the former committee be retained to correspond with the F.M. Board and missionaries of other stations.

Art. II

The report of the committee to arrange for baptismal certificates, Membership cards, and Evangelist forms, was accepted, and the committee retained to complete the work.

See, Art. 7, March 1917.

Art. III

Reconsideration of Art. IV, March, 1917.

Resolved that all persons who have been married by native custom only should be married by Christian rites before engaging in the work of the Lord as teacher or evangelist.

Art. IV

Whereas, the need for more missionaries is urgent, and continually increasing,

Resolved that a letter be written to the F.M. Board reminding them of our request for workers as per Art. I, March, 1917.

Art. V

What assistance shall we give our native teachers in removing from place to place and in building?

Decided that they should be allowed one shilling per mile for removing, and 1.10.0 per hut for the building of two living huts.

Art. VI

Should we not have native evangelists who would spend most or all of their time in the work?

Decided that we should.

Art. VII

What should be our attitude toward a man who wishes to become a member of the Church, but who has more than one wife?

Decided to reaffirm our former decision on the subject to the effect that such a one should retain but one as his wife, and make provision for the sustenance of the others. Art. 2, 1908.

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Art. VIII

What shall we do with members of the Church who fall into gross sin(Fornication)?

Decided that as no better method has been presented, we reaffirm our former decision(Art. 3, 1913) that such should be returned to the Enquirers' Class.

Art. IX

What answer should we give the F.M. Treasurer in regard to the transmission of funds during the present war?

Decided, that in order to add to the safety of transmission, we advise the sending of a second of exchange two or three weeks after the first.

Art. X

Whereas, the F.M. Board has kindly consented to provide for Matope and Mtshabazi either four additional mules or an automobile,

Whereas, to supply the need would require six additional mules and an extra cost, or an automobile and two mules,

Resolved that we accept their offer of an automobile, and request means for securing two good mules for Mtshabazi.

Art. XI

Resolved, that in order to unify and strengthen the work in Africa, the missionaries from all the stations be invited to join with us in forming a South African Conference to be held biannually, where every station should be represented by delegate if possible; the first Conference to be held at Matope in 1918.

Art. XII

Whereas, our mission work is enlarging, thereby increasing the work not only of the missionaries on the field but of the Mission Board at home,

Whereas, also, in order to insure the best development of the work, there must needs be close co-operation between the workers on the field and the Foreign Mission Secretary,

Resolved that we petition Gen. Conference to relieve our present secretary from some of his other manifold duties, in order that he may give a greater proportion of his time to the Foreign Mission work.

Art. XIII

Whereas, the F.M. Board has kindly granted a stipulated allowance to adult missionaries for their personal needs, and also an allowance for the education of their children,

Resolved, (1) That we hereby tender to them our heartiest thanks for said allowance;

(2) That we request an explanation as to what is included in the expression, "Personal Needs";

(3) That since the allowance for Missionaries' children is very inadequate, for Rhodesian conditions, we regret that the amount of the

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Art. XIII Cont.

amount of the allowance was fixed before consulting with the African Council;

(4) That we request an explanation as to whether or not children of school age who attend school at a mission station shall receive the same allowance as those going away from home.

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Supplementary to Art. XIII

Decision of African Conference as to what articles should be furnished by missionaries from the money sent for individual use;

- Private stamps and stationery.
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Dental work and medical aid unless the bill is too large.
- Towels for private use.
- Toilet soap.
- Bedroom furnishings.

The mission to pay the following:

- Kitchen, pantry, and dining room furnishings.
- Ordinary Hotel expenses.
- Railway fare from Stanmore to Bulawayo.