

1913

The Mission workers of Matope and Mtshabezi Missions met in Conference at the latter place Monday, Sept. 15, 1913, with Eld. H.P. Steigerwald Moderator, and H.J. Frey Secretary. Owing to the large number of questions which demanded attention, the Conference was continued for three days.

## Art. I

Whereas, our members are considerably scattered, and travel much from place to place, either in visiting or working, and it seems advisable for them to have some means of identification as members of the Church,

Resolved, that we provide every member and class member with a membership card.

Com. to arrange. W.O. W., A.C.W., H.J.F.

## Art. II

Whereas, many of the African natives are afflicted with various loathsome ~~and~~ communicative diseases,

Whereas, public discrimination against some would be difficult and scarcely advisable,

Resolved, that we petition the F.M.B. for the privilege to discontinue the custom of greeting with a kiss at times of baptism and communion service.

## Art. III

Whereas, the matter of dealing with members guilty of grievous sins is coming to be a serious question, in order that, on the one hand, the guilty persons may feel the depth of their sins, and on the other hand may not be discouraged,

Resolved that those guilty of adultery and other offences be required to return to the Enquirers' class for a period of at least one year.

## Art. IV

Inasmuch as the day for prayer and fasting has not come up to our expectations, and desires, is it expedient to continue the same

Whereas, we see the need of more earnest prevailing prayer, both among ourselves and also our native congregations,

Resolved that the special prayer day be continued, and that all put forth special effort to make the day what it ought to be--one of blessing and power.

## Art. V

Whereas, it seems to us that our love feasts have been held too infrequently, and it is also apparent that to conduct large love feasts at frequent intervals would entail heavy burdens and expense,

Resolved that two general love feasts be held annually (one at each of the main stations) and that a communion service be held monthly at each of the main ~~stations~~ stations, and as often as deemed expedient at the outschools.

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## Art. VI

Whereas, it seems advisable to secure S.S. Lesson helps, and whereas the helps we had formerly used are no longer being printed,

Resolved that a committee of four be appointed, either to formulate some of our own or to obtain the same from some other source--the helps to be ready by Jan. 1, 1914, if possible.

Com. H.J. Frey, Emma Frey, A.C. Winger, Sadie Book.

## Art. VII

Whereas, there seems to be a serious lack in our various congregations as regards giving to the Lord's work, due largely perhaps to lack of system,

Resolved, that more definite teaching be given on this line, and that we provide every member with a contribution card, the same to be in connection with the membership cards as mentioned in Art. I.

## Art. VIII

Whereas, our duties both temporal and spiritual are continually increasing,

Whereas, our membership is growing both in numbers and in capability,

Resolved (1) that the time has come for us to establish the office of deacons in our native congregations.

(2) That one or more deacons shall be chosen at each of the main stations, and at as many of the outstations as may be deemed advisable; the same to serve for a period of five years during good behavior, and they shall also be eligible for reelection.

## Art. IX

Whereas the question in regard to the native marriage tie and kindred subjects has come up for a decision from us,

Resolved that we defer answer to the question until we correspond with other societies on the question.

## Art. X

question of the placing of workers.

After prayerful and deliberate consideration, decided that Bro. and Sr. W.C. Winger go to Matopo, Sr. Doner to Macha, and Srs. Alvis and Baker to Mtshabezi. Bro. Andrew Winger also to labor at Mtshabezi until other arrangements are made, after which he is to labor at Matopo in connection with the proposed school for evangelists.

## Art. XI

Whereas, there is still special need for new missionaries, not only to enter new fields, but also to labor at the stations already opened,

Resolved that we petition the F.M.S. for new recruits, both men and women, to come forth as soon as possible. Especially is there need for two young men, even during the present conference year.

## Art. XII

Whereas, our native members are increasing in numbers and ability, and it seems advisable for them to have a voice in the

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## Art. XII Cont.

governing of their own affairs,

Whereas, also, if the proper means are employed, they can be of special service to us in giving light and information on many lines,

Resolved that we arrange for an annual native Conference, the first to convene at Matopo Mission at the time of our next General lovefeast at that place, the arrangements to be made by Elder Steigewald.

## Art. XIII

Whereas, the present lease for the Mapane Mission site will expire in 1914, and it seems advisable that the work at that place should continue,

Resolved that steps be taken for its renewal; and that our secretary be instructed to arrange for the same.

## Art. XIV

Since there is considerable lack of knowledge as to what articles to bring along upon coming to this country, also lack of understanding repassing the customs, etc., and since some of our missionaries have experienced considerable difficulty of these lines

Resolved that a committee be appointed to draw up definite instructions in regard to these things; and that the same be sent to the secretary of the F.M. Board, be published annually in the Visitor during the month of February, and that a copy be given to every accepted applicant for the mission field at the time of his acceptance.

Comm. A.C. Winger, Cora Alvis, Mary Heisey, whose report was tentatively accepted with instructions that the same should also be sent to our other mission stations for suggestions.

## Art. XV

What disposal shall be made of the Hondamabze goods.

Though it seems to us that usually all property ~~or~~ or moneys remaining from any discontinued mission should be used in opening a new station; but

Whereas such disposition seems impossible at present, and Gen. Conference has already authorized that part of the same should be used in the completion of the buildings at Mtshabazi and the balance to be disposed of at the discretion of the missionaries on the field

Resolved that the following disposition be made (1) That Forty-five Pounds be used for the completion of the Mtshabazi house,

(2) That Twenty-five Pounds go toward the erection of a native hospital at Matopo,

(3) That the bull and team of twelve donkeys be set aside for the proposed Memorial School, the same to be sold when deemed advisable, and the proceeds used for said purpose.

(4) That the wagon, donkey harness and trek go to Matopo,

(5) That the ~~the~~ mules, harness and cart go to Mtshabazi.

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Art. XV Cont.

(6) That the balance of Fifty Pounds be sent to Macha to be used for the survey of the Mission Farm.

Art. XVI

Whereas, the Zulu arithmetics formerly used at our mission stations are no longer in print, and

Whereas we see the urgent need for something of the kind,

Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed to secure said books from some other source; or failing that to compile an edition of our own providing the expense is not too great.

Comm. A.C. Winger, Sadie Book, H.J. Frey.

Art. XVII

Whereas, our business and official clerical work is continually on the increase, and whereas the use of stationery with letter heads would considerably add to our convenience as well as to our prestige and standing among officials and others,

Resolved that our secretary be instructed to arrange for suitable letter heads.

Art. XVIII

Whereas, because of two years of excessive drought, our native teachers are unquestionably in need of help over and above their regular allowance,

Resolved that this conference agrees to give them the necessary relief for their present needs, and that a committee of four be appointed to ascertain whether or not their present monthly allowance is sufficient under ordinary circumstances.

Comm. H.P. and Mrs. Steigerwald, H.J. and Mrs. Frey.

Art. XIX

Whereas, it has become a question whether or not we are giving the boys and girls staying at the various mission stations the proper amount of help by way of clothing, etc.,

Resolved that the committee appointed under Art. 18 investigate this matter as well as the committee to complete their investigations before the end of the year if possible. The Committee shall also be empowered to put their recommendations into effect without further action by organized council.

Art. XX

Whereas, the Twenty-five Pounds sent to Bro. and Sr. Winger in 1912 was not used for private purposes as at first intended, but for building at Mtshabeki;

Resolved that we request the F.M. Treasurer to make a note of it in the Visitor.

## Art. XXI

Whereas, male missionaries coming to the field are almost universally required to preach the Gospel, and also at times to perform official duties,

Resolved that we petition Gen. Conference to give the Church on the field the power to ordain to the ministry such missionaries as it may be thought advisable thus to ordain, provided that no such action shall be taken without the consent of the F.M. Board.

## Art. XXII

Whereas, according to the decision of General Conference of 1910, the Memorial building at Matepe is to be erected in memory of three of our pioneer missionaries, Eld. Jesse Engle, and Mrs. Sara Cress and Emma Dener, who gladly laid down their lives on the field,

Whereas, since that time it has pleased the all-wise Father to call another to himself,

Resolved that we petition Gen. Conference to add also to the list the name of our departed brother Levi Dener, as well as any others who may be called home before the building shall be completed.

## Art. XXIII

Whereas, the workers agree that our present method of conducting our communion service is unsuitable for our native congregations,

Resolved that we petition the Gen. Conference to allow us to adopt such method as may meet our requirements.

## Art. XXIV

Whereas some of our mission stations which require occasional or periodical visits by the elder are widely separated,

Whereas, also, itinerating work should be more and more encouraged by the workers from the various stations, all of which entails considerable expense,

Resolved that we petition the F.M. Board for advice as to how these expenses should be met.

## Art. XXV

Whereas, the members of this conference are of the opinion that the resolution passed by Gen. Conference of 1913, which appears on the Minutes Page 48, Art. 16, div(f) is an uncharitable one, which leaves the impression that married people with children are undesirable missionaries and a burden to the Church,

Resolved therefore that we as a mission body do humbly protest against this or any other resolution which tends to discourage and dishearten those who are working in harmony with the Church and have spent the best of their lives in the interest of the work of the Church on the Mission field, but who because of the children whom God has given them, must feel rejected.

Resolved further that we petition the F.M. Board through Conference of 1914, to endeavor to remove this objection, and bring about a feeling of contentment.

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Art. XXV Cont.

Conference closed Wednesday evening with a refreshing season of prayer. A beautiful harmony prevailed throughout, and all were impressed with the encouraging growth of the work of God in this land during a few years of feeble effort; and perhaps just as much impressed with the increasing magnitude and scope of our influence, duties and responsibilities. As we see our own insufficiency, we cannot but cry unto God for wisdom, grace, and strength, and pray that God will send forth still more laborers unto the ever-ripening harvest field.

H. J. Frey, Secretary.