

PART I
Recommendations and Resolutions of the
General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
1878-1963

Compiled by A. E. Janzen
Authorized by The Board of Reference and Counsel of the
General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
1964

Preface to Part One
1878-1963

After receiving the assignment from the Board of Reference and Counsel of the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches in May, 1963, the task of assembling the resolutions and decisions of the Conference from its very beginning in 1878 was begun.

The only source from which these resolutions were available, was the General Conference Yearbooks (GCY). The Conference Yearbooks did not appear in print until 1883. The original and several copies from the original of the Conference Reports (minutes) of 1878 to 1882 have been preserved only in written form, except that in 1949, Missionary J. H. Lohrenz prepared a mimeographed manuscript for distribution from the copy from the original prepared by J. F. Harms in 1924, covering the years 1879 to 1882.

The year and page references appearing at the end of each resolution in this book refer to (a) The copy from the 1878 original prepared by Jakob D. Thiessen; (b) the mimeographed copy prepared by J. H. Lohrenz covering the years 1879 to 1882; (c) the one-volume reprint of the printed Conference Reports of the years 1883 to 1919 published by the Mennonite Brethren Publishing House, Hillsboro, Kansas, in 1920; and (d) the individual General Conference Yearbooks of the years 1921 to 1963.

To facilitate finding a resolution on a certain subject, each resolution or group of resolutions has been provided with a heading indicating its content. In order to reduce the volume of this book, the floor discussions surrounding resolutions have been omitted. The resolutions as a whole have been classified according to headings under which they appear in the conference yearbooks.

Resolutions adopted by the Conference have mainly had a three-fold origin or source: from (1) motions made by individual delegates usually following a discussion of the point in question; (2) recommendations made by committees or boards in charge of the respective Conference endeavor; (3) recommendations made by the Board (committee) of Reference and Counsel.

In this book the principle is being followed, that any recommendation or motion, whether originated by an individual delegate, a board, or a committee, if accepted by the Conference, becomes a Conference resolution, and therefore it is listed as such. Only resolutions actually adopted by the Conference are reported in this volume.

It is to be noted also that up to about 1919 most of the business was done on the conference floor by the entire delegation. Hence many resolutions up to 1919 regulate details which after that period of time were relegated to committees or boards. With the Conference meeting but

once in three years, after the 1909-1912 interim, it became necessary to *grant* more authority to committees and boards to make decisions of operational nature, and for the Conference to reserve the prerogative of deciding on principles and policies.

Until 1943 the General Conference Yearbooks appear in the German language which required that all resolutions for this book prior to this date be translated into the English. Although expressed in free translation, a special effort has been made to convey the exact meaning of each resolution. Beginning in 1945 the General Conference Yearbooks appear in the English language, and much, in fact most, of the content consists in reports by committees and boards and their recommendations. Conference delegate discussions on the floor have declined to a minimum.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that in the Lord's good providence this compilation of the resolutions of our brotherhood through the years, may prove greatly helpful in giving information as well as direction to the Conference, its laity, and leadership, in discharging and expanding its world-wide spiritual ministry in the name and power of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ (Matt. 28: 18-20).

Hillsboro, Kansas

A. E. Janzen

August 1, 1964

Recommendations and Resolutions

ADMISSION TO CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1879 -- Admission to Conference sessions
That no one who is not of our faith should be admitted to our Conference sessions. GCY, 1879, p. 2, Manuscript.

1897 -- Open and closed meetings
That the Conference hold open Conference meetings during the devotional and worship services, and closed sessions when considering matters of business relating to missions and similar endeavors. GCY, 1897, p. 198.

ADVENTISTS

1885 -- Adventists and church membership
That in answer to the question, "May we accept into membership without baptism candidates who have been baptized by the Adventists?", the Conference decided that since we only recognize the baptism upon confession of faith, such persons must be examined to ascertain if they were believers when they were baptized. This is in keeping with the Conference resolution passed in 1878. GCY, 1885, p. 36.

AFFILIATION

1936 -- Ontario Conference affiliation
That in regard to closer affiliation of the Ontario Conference, the General Conference is ready to extend the hand of working fellowship to the brethren of the Ontario Conference, but since the two conferences differ in some salient principles and regulations, the Conference is obligated to limit this fellowship in that delegates from Ontario abstain from questions of Conference principles, and in case of candidates for Conference or missionary activity recommend only such as have

been baptized by immersion. In all deliberations of general importance and missionary activities the brethren are perfectly welcome to participate. GCY, 1936, p. 68.

1939 -- Extending fellowship to Ontario Conference
That in answer to a letter from the Ontario Conference the General M.B. Conference (as recommended by its Committee of Reference and Counsel) extends full fellowship to all the churches of the Ontario Conference that are of the same faith with the General Conference, that are willing to abide by our resolutions and to share in all undertakings. This covers the members of the churches who are baptized by immersion upon the confession of faith, provided that they submit to all provisions and obligations of our constitution. It will then be registered and officially recognized as the Ontario Conference. This agreement to be in force when the Ontario Conference has accepted the conditions and has published the decision in the *Zionsbote*. GCY, 1939, pp. 57, 58.

1945 -- Affiliation with K.M.B. Conference
In foreign missions activity. (See K.M.B. Conference).

1951-- Affiliation, merger, with K.M.B. Conference
(See merger).

AGED, CONCERN FOR

1963 -- Concern for the aged
That because of the inquiries which have come to our Board (of General Welfare) from individuals, groups and old people's homes for information and assistance in meeting the need of the aged, and because this logically falls into the area of general welfare, ... the Board of General

Welfare assume the responsibility for the following: (a) to continue to study the need of the aged; (b) give information on the useful, creative services of the older people in our congregation; (c) call periodic conferences of interested people for the purpose of consultation and co-ordination of efforts. GCY, 1963, pp. 113, 114.

AUDITING

1936 -- Auditing committee established
By the adoption of the 1936 General Conference constitution, an auditing committee of three members was established. GCY, 1936, p. 40.

1957 -- C.P.A. audit required
That the proposed (Conference) constitution be revised to require an annual C.P.A. audit of all committees handling over \$10,000.00 per year, without any further action by either Auditing Committee or approval of the Board of Trustees and that the words "or equivalent by brethren capable of similar service" be stricken. GCY, 1957, pp. 117, 118.

1960 -- Auditing committee dissolved
That the auditing committee (of the General M.B. Conference) be dissolved. GCY, 1960, p. 154.

BAPTISM

1878 -- Form of baptism
That by burying with Christ in baptism, we understand to mean the baptism by immersion backward, as that form indicates laying a body to rest. It was also decided to recognize the baptism by immersion while kneeling or the forward immersion form, provided it was performed upon the confession of faith. GCY, 1878.

1879 -- Rank in baptism
That we only baptize redeemed (saved) sinners, never ministers or elders. This is to answer the question as to whether or not

ministers and elders retain their rank when applicants for baptism. GCY, 1879, p. 4.

1904 -- Recognizing baptism of other denominations

That in all cases where baptism by immersion has been administered the prerequisite must be the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ. GCY, 1904, p. 320.

Immersion -- See immersion, page 90.

BAPTISTS

1878 -- Fellowship with resistant Baptists

That since we believe and teach nonresistance, we withdraw from the fellowship of the resistant Baptists, sincerely believing that this is in keeping with the Word of God. GCY, 1878.

1909 -- Accepting Baptists into membership
That according to former resolutions, Baptist members may be accepted into full church membership, provided they bring a good report and submit a letter of good standing from the church from which they come. In order not to cause disturbance and hard feeling among the churches, however, great care must be exercised where members have withdrawn from their church for unholy reasons. GCY, 1909, pp. 423,424.

1945 -- Regarding recognition of Baptists for church membership

That since the Baptists today differ so greatly from us in many concepts of a Christian walk, an actual concurrence becomes impossible ... that therefore our churches regard marriage of our members with members of the Baptist church as a stepping out of our church, unless our church can give the latter the testimony of a blameless Christian walk. If a member of the Baptist church wishes to join the Mennonite Brethren Church, the applicant must give testimony of his faith before the church and must declare his agreement with the principles of our church. In case the

church is not convinced of the applicant's spiritual walk, the applicant should be put on probation before he (or she) is accepted into the church. GCY. 1945, p. 72.

1945 -- Church letters from Baptists

That membership letters from the Baptist church are recognized only as evidence that the applicant is not under discipline; in which case acceptance into our church would be impossible (on the basis of a church letter only). "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked" 1 John 2:6. "But if we walk in the light, we have fellowship one with another" 1 John 1:7. GCY, 1945, p. 72.

BEARD

1890 -- Wearing a beard

That the Conference cautions members of the Mennonite Brethren Church not to be a stumbling block to anyone. GCY, 1890. p. 107.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
CONFERENCE**

1908 -- Board of Trustees established (Directors) A board of directors of three members was established by the Conference by the adoption of the 1907 version of the Conference constitution formally adopted in 1908. GC constitution, 1908, p. 15.

1936 -- Board of Trustees enlarged The Board of Trustees was enlarged to nine members by the adoption of the 1936 version of the Conference constitution. GC constitution, 1936, p. 18.

1948 -- Deals in and transfers of property That in view of the great responsibility placed upon the Board of Directors (trustees) and in order to prevent all possible encumbrances regarding the fixed assets of the General Conference ... all deals of the Conference property be

negotiated and all transfers of same be undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Directors (trustees) and be executed as provided for in Article IV, Section 2 D, in the Conference constitution. All deeds of all properties of the General (M.B.) Conference at home and abroad, are ... to be in custody of the Board of Trustees and the Board assumes no responsibility for transactions made by committees or boards of the Conference. GCY, 1948, p. 60.

1948 -- Note due Board of Foreign Missions by Tabor College

That since the principal of the old note due the Board of Foreign Missions by Tabor College no longer bears interest, the amount be written off from the books of the treasurer of the Board of Trustees, and that in consideration of the liquidation of this debt Tabor College from year to year remit 50% of the tuition of the missionary children of parents of our Conference who may be students at Tabor College, and admit such children of missionary parents in our Conference as students at half tuition. GCY, 1948, p. 60.

1951 -- General Conference treasury That a General M.B. Conference treasury be created in line with resolution adopted by the General Conference in 1948, p. 100, and that this provision be incorporated in the constitution of the General Conference. GCY, 1951, pp. 93, 94, 95.

1951 -- One offering per church per year That one collection a year per church for this treasury be faithfully and diligently complied with without fail or hesitation. GCY, 1951, p. 93.

1951 -- Sale of church buildings That a regulation be made in the new constitution which provides that sale of church (buildings) be administered by the respective district (or province) Conferences within which such churches are found.

(See also new constitution, 1963, p. 32)
GCY, 1951, pp. 94, 95.

1951-- Ministerial retirement

That the details of the plan (submitted by the Board of Trustees) be duplicated and submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for study and approval and then remitted to the various churches for study and adoption if they so see fit. (See ministers retirement) GCY, 1951, pp. 9,5, 96.

1954 -- Name of Board

That the brethren who hold in trust and administer the money of the Conference continue to be known as the Conference Board of Trustees. GCY, 1954, p. 97.

1954 -- Missionary endowment and educational funds

That the responsibility for retiring the financial obligation incurred through signing of missionary endowment and educational fund notes is strictly the responsibility of the individual church member who signed the note concerned. ... That it is in accord with scriptural teaching that the churches have a definite moral and spiritual responsibility towards those delinquent members who, having freely made a pledge to the cause of missions and to the Lord, default on same without advancing any valid reason for so doing. ... That the missionary endowment and the educational fund be continued....

That cash donations and notes to bolster the funds shall continue to be solicited, but only with the express permission of the local church. ... To avoid the mistakes of the past. ... And that the Board is willing to entertain advice and assistance from the churches as to how this can be done most efficiently. GCY, 1954, p. 97.

1957 -- Loans to Board of Foreign Missions

That the Conference authorize the Board of Trustees to make loans available to the Board of Foreign Missions up to \$16,000 to meet emergencies as stated above (viz. need for funds upon short notice and

during summer months when mission receipts are low). GCY, 1957, p. 119.

BOOKS, CONFERENCE ASSIGNED

1954 -- Books assigned by Conference

That the Conference instruct the brethren of the incoming Committee of Reference and Counsel to continue to work on the four Conference assigned books which are to be ready by 1960 as already initiated by the present Committee of Reference and Counsel. ... That the financing for the publication of the assigned books be undertaken by the Conference Trustees, and that the books then be property of the Conference and the receipts of the sale of the books flow into the Conference Treasury. GCY, 1954, p. 20.

1954 -- Sale of Conference assigned books

That the sale of the books authorized for printing by the Conference, be handled through the proper book channels for the Conference and that any money so realized come back to the Conference expense fund which provided the funds for this purpose. GCY, 1954, p. 33.

1957 -- Instruction to Board of Reference and Counsel re book assignment

That the Conference instruct the incoming members of the Board of Reference and Counsel to continue to work with and seek to finish the four books assigned by the Conference for the centennial commemoration of our brotherhood in 1960. The books being in the English language, (as follows): (a) An abridgement of the History of the Mennonite Brethren Church written by Brother (A.H.) Unruh. (b) The book on the Biblical Doctrines of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (c) The book on the Polity and Practices of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (d) The book on the History of Missions in the Mennonite Brethren Church. (and) That the Board of Trustees be consulted about the financial

outlay of the project, the number of books to be printed in each case, and the most advisable method of publishing these documents during the next triennium. GCY, 1957, pp. 113 and 118.

1957 -- Financing book assignment

That the Conference reaffirm its action taken in 1954 on the financing and the ownership of the aforementioned books as recorded in the 46th (1964) Year Book, page 20.

GCY, 1957, p. 113. (and) That the Board of Reference and Counsel have the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees for further finances if needed, for the production of the aforementioned books. That the Board of Trustees in turn, have the permission of the Conference to ask for a second dollar assessment from the Conference membership during the next triennium for financing these publications, if needed. GCY, 1957, p. 113.

1957 -- Note of gratitude to Brother A. H. Unruh for writing the History of the M.B. Church

That the Conference accept and direct the following note of gratitude to Brother A. H. Unruh: (a) *Gratitude*. The Mennonite Brethren Church of North and South America is most grateful to God and to our dear senior brother in Christ, Dr. A. H. Unruh, God's servant, for the great service he has been able, by God's grace, to render our church in the production of a large volume on the History of the Mennonite Brethren Church. This work will stand as a monument reminding our people of this choice servant of God, who has labored in our midst. (b) *Value of book*. That there is no doubt but that this book will be invaluable in the future as source material and that Brother Unruh's interpretations of the various trends and events will remain a testimony to the genius of his spiritual sight, and a guiding influence for coming generations. (c) *Prayer for reward*. That we pray that God may richly

reward Brother Unruh's faithfulness and devotion to God and our brotherhood whom he has faithfully served. GCY, 1957, p.113.

CENTENNIAL

1951 -- Centennial commemoration

That this Conference charge its new Committee of Reference and Counsel to be elected during these sessions to begin to make the necessary preparations for the centennial commemoration of the Mennonite Brethren Church. GCY, 1951, p. 122.

1957 -- Instruction for the 1960 centennial observance

That the Conference instruct the incoming Board of Reference and Counsel and the incoming Conference program committee to jointly plan for an appropriate and God-honoring centennial commemoration of our brotherhood to be observed in 1960 in the individual churches and at our Conference sessions. GCY, 1957, p. 114.

1960 -- Centennial Conference (See also "Merger.")

1960 -- Response to greeting and statement of regret from the General Conference Mennonite Church

That (in) response to the greeting from the General Conference of the Mennonite Church, dated August 12-20, 1959, (GCY, 1960, pp. 37, 38) and the statement of apology by the Centennial Study Conference of the Mennonite Church, dated June 20-23, 1960, (GCY, 1960, p. 38) the following response be transmitted:

The General Conference Mennonite Church, c/o Dr. Erland Waltner, President, Bluffton, Ohio, Dear Brethren in Christ:

Christian greetings with the words of the Apostle Paul, when he said, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son" 1 Cor. 1:9.

Pursuant to the official communications and greetings of your Centennial Conference of August 12, 1959 and the Centennial Study Conference of June 20-23, 1960, conveyed to us by your president, Dr. Erland Waltner, we accept your gracious words with a deep sense of humility and appreciation.

The joint efforts of Christian service of both conferences, yours and ours, in the alleviation of suffering, of the peace witness, and of other services of common interests evoke in our hearts a response of gratitude to God that we are enabled to be "laborers together with God." Our desire reciprocates your expressions of concerns for a closer fellowship in the pursuit of these united ventures of faith with an increasing measure of love and understanding for one another.

We, too, share your concerns that the separation of 1860 occasioned "many feelings, words, and deeds that were not brotherly." We recognize that certain attitudes, on our part, have been colored with intolerance, even to the point of reservations of mutual fellowship and love. We deeply regret our failings and weaknesses of the past and hasten to say that we are motivated by the spirit of love to ask forgiveness where we have acted coldly and unbrotherly.

At a time when the world is torn with strife, without and within, there comes to us the fervent plea and heart-throb of our Savior, when He prayed, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they all may be one as we are" (John 17:11b). Even though we have our distinct responsibilities, as separate conferences, we believe it is well-pleasing to God that we express our mutual respect, love and consideration for one another, and so strengthen our gospel witness in a world that is in desperate need of the salvation of God.

Being assured that God looks with favor on "him that is poor and of a contrite heart" (Is. 66:2b), we are, Fraternaly yours in Christ, Dan E. Friesen, Chairman, Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church. GCY, 1960, pp. 135, 136.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND

1897 -- Church building fund

That (we) establish a church building fund and turn the administration of this fund over to the Missions Committee. GCY, 1897, p. 198.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1936 -- Brethren living in discord

That in answer to the question as to how to handle a matter where brethren of different M.B. churches live in discord with each other, the Conference perceived this as an improper relationship and contrary to the Word of God which teaches us to rather suffer wrong than to do it. The case in question should be carefully examined and the innocent exonerated, the other reprimanded. If that is impossible, 1 Corinthians 4:5, would apply in such case. GCY, 1936, p. 67.

1945 -- Immorality (See immorality)

CHURCHES DISSOLVED

1924 -- Letters from and records of dissolving churches

That if a church has been dissolved, the neighboring church officials may issue church letters to the respective members. Church records may be turned over to the conference treasurer. GCY, 1924, p. 65.

CHURCHES, NEWLY ORGANIZED

1924 -- Financial assistance to new churches

That newly organized churches which need financial assistance when building a sanctuary, should contact the neighboring congregations of our constituency for help. Assisting churches should extend such aid according to possibility and necessity in the form of special offerings held for that purpose. GCY, 1924, p. 65.

1927 -- Financial aid to new churches

That if a new church feels the need of financial aid to build a sanctuary, it may direct its appeal to the home missions committee of the district. If the committee is convinced that aid is needed, it makes the necessary recommendation. The respective church may then proceed to request aid from the churches within its district. In exceptional cases aid may be requested from churches in other districts, provided permission to do so has been obtained from the home missions committee of those districts. GCY, 1927, p. 68.

COLONIZATION

1948 -- Colonization and settlement

That we agree to support the resettlement and colonization program as it is possible and practical towards Paraguay, Canada, the United States, or to any other country where our less fortunate brethren may be offered an opportunity to establish a home, earn their own livelihood, and live a life of liberty that assures freedom to worship and serve God and to educate the children in the faith of the Bible and that of our fathers. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

1894 -- Publication of Confession of Faith That the Conference publish the (M.B.) confession of faith in the *Zionsbote*, and to discuss its contents at the next meeting of the Conference. GCY, 1894, p. 167.

1895 -- Printing of Confession of Faith That the Conference print the Confession of Faith for use in our churches. GCY, 1895, p. 176. (Note. The Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America was first formally adopted in 1902. It appeared in the German language. A new edition was published by the M.B. Publishing House, Hillsboro, Kansas, in 1916. The first English edition prepared by Dr. H. F. Toews appeared in 1917.)

CONSCRIPTION

1945 -- In case of conscription

That we ask our brethren of the Public Relations Committee to lead us in exercising proper influence against peace-time conscription of our young men, but that in case of its inevitable enactment, we favor asking for special provisions of service in a non-military capacity. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 -- Military conscription

That the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America go on record as being opposed to any type of military conscription and that this decision be sent to *Congress* and the proper (other) authorities through Brother P. C. Hiebert. GCY, 1945, p. 75.

CONSTITUTION, CONFERENCE

1908 -- Conference constitution

That we adopt the newly revised constitution of the Conference of the Mennonite

Brethren Church of North America. (1908 edition). GCY, 1908, p. 396.

1936 -- Acceptance of 1936 constitution
That the changes and modifications (presented by the committee on constitution at this 1936 convention) be accepted, (and) that the 1936 version of the constitution with the changes be adopted. (See 1936 constitution). GCY, 1936, pp. 6, 34, 35.

1948 -- Committees added to constitution
That the following committees, established by the Conference, and which have functioned for several Conference terms, be added to the Conference constitution and be provided with governing regulations in the constitution: the Youth Committee, and the Sunday School Committee. The latter to be named Church School Committee, so as to include the Sunday School, Midweek Bible School, Vacation Bible School, and other church school activities. GCY, 1948, p. 98.

1948 to 1963 -- Note. Changes in the constitution
Since resolutions regarding changes in the constitution of the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church continued during the years from 1948 to 1963, and since the Conference operated on the basis of provisional constitutions during these years, which provisions were modified from interim to interim, reference to the resolutions for change during this period of time are omitted in this book. The revised constitution was finally adopted in August of 1963, at the regular meeting of the Conference. See resolution on constitution. GCY, 1963, p. 35.)

1954 -- New constitution presented in 1954 (Beginning of "area" organization.) That the Conference adopt the revised revision of the constitution, also known as draft No. 2, as a working basis for the next three years (1954 to 1957). (See draft No. 2). GCY, 1954, p. 18.

(Note. The Committee of Constitution, elected in 1951, had prepared a new revised constitution to be presented to the Conference in 1954. This draft contained all the Boards listed in the 1936 edition of the Constitution plus the new boards or committees that had been created by Conference resolutions since that date. In 1953, the Canadian M.B. Conference voted that certain activities be made "area" conference responsibilities, and designated the following: higher education, church schools (including Sunday schools), youth work, home missions. Anticipating that the General M.B. Conference delegation of 1954 might accept the "area" proposition, the Committee on Constitution prepared a second draft or revised draft, called draft No. 2. This draft of The constitution eliminated the above four as General Conference activities, made them "area" conference responsibilities, and merely provided "consultative committees" for these activities in the General Conference constitution. It was this draft No. 2 that was adopted by the 1954 Conference for its working document for the ensuing Conference interim.) GCY, 1954, p. 18.

1957 -- Re: postponing adoption of constitution
That in view of the state of flux and growth which our Conference is undergoing at present, the adoption of the constitution be postponed until such time as the organizational principle of unification be fully clarified in our Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 13.

1957 -- 1957 constitution to serve as provisional document during following interim
That the present proposed document (constitution) continue to serve as a provisional constitution also for the ensuing Conference interim with such changes and additions as have been or may be

adopted during the sessions of this Conference and that the committee on constitution be instructed to review together with the respective boards or committees the changes or corrections made sufficiently early in 1959 in order that the completed document can be submitted to the district conferences to be distributed to the churches for study so as to enable the General M.B. Conference to complete the final adoption in 1960. GCY, 1957, pp. 14, 15.

1960 -- Acceptance of the revised 1960 constitution

That the Conference accept the revised constitution (This refers to the revisions made in the 1957 draft including all changes which came in during the 1957-1960 interim plus those suggested at the 1960 session of the Conference) presented by the General Conference constitution committee, plus any changes which may occur as the result of the adoption of recommendations or resolutions presented by any board or committee during this Conference session. (For list of changes refer to GCY, 1960, pp. 31, 32). GCY, 1960, p. 32, 33.

1960 -- Re: tenure of office

That the provisions of the revised constitution pertaining to tenure of office may not bar any officers and members of boards and committees from succeeding themselves in their respective positions ... the provisions of the revised constitution be observed as going into effect as of the 1957 Conference. This means that all officers and members of boards and committees may succeed themselves in this year's elections for a second term. GCY, 1960, p. 33.

1960 -- Representation at General Conference That the delegation to the General Conference be made up of one delegate for every 50 (church) members or portion thereof, plus the pastor or church leader or alternate, beginning with the next

(1963) session of the General Conference. GCY, 1960, p. 35.

1960 -- Changing name of headquarters from Buhler to Hillsboro

That it be resolved herewith by the delegates of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, convened in regular session at Reedley, California, on November 14, 1960, to change the name of its main place of business from Buhler, Kansas, to Hillsboro, Kansas, and to authorize the officers of the Board of Trustees to process the above change by an amendment to the present charter by the regular legal procedure through the Department of State of the State of Kansas under which laws this corporation exists and functions. GCY, 1960, p. 43.

1960 -- Missionary endowment fund

That the wording of the old (1967) constitution regarding solicitations for the missionary endowment fund be left unchanged. GCY. 1~60, p. 91.

1960 -- Solicitations for missionary fund activity

That to avoid overlapping and confusion in soliciting funds for projects of the Conference, the Board of Trustees in the future solicit for missionary fund activity only; that is, completely vacate the educational endowment field. GCY. 1960, p. 91.

1960 -- Raising interest rate from 5 percent to 6 percent

That due to the fact that interest rates are constantly rising, and due to the large backlog of applications for loans on hand, all future loans with Conference churches be negotiated at the rate of 6 percent. GCY. 1960, p. 91.

1963 -- Final adoption of revised, new constitution

After a brief discussion a motion carried to accept the (August, 1963, version)

constitution with the proposed and accepted changes. GCY, 1963, p. 35.

1963 -- Distribution of constitution
That the (constitution) booklet be distributed without charge. Each church ... to request the number of booklets desired. GCY, 1963, p. 139.

DEACONESSES

1919 -- Regarding deaconesses
That in response to the question as to whether the Conference should not enter into the endeavor of training deaconesses and recognizing that office, the Conference elected a committee of three brethren to do preliminary work in this direction. GCY, 1919, p. 504.

DEBTS, MORTGAGES, AND THE LAW

1889 -- Extensive debts and complicated business transactions
That because of the dangers, as numerous examples give evidence, that if brethren enter into extensive debts and mortgages, through complicated business deals, and also when brethren resort to legal means of pressure (foreclosure), the Conference seriously warns against such behavior and desires ~hat every brother, rich or poor, keep his conscience unspotted and retain a position of humility before the Lord. GCY, 1889, p. 89.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE

1963 -- Devotional prayer guide
(a) That the recommendation of the Board of Reference and Counsel concerning a devotional prayer guide ... and approved by the joint boards of the Conference ... be accepted and that the Board of Reference and Counsel be charged with the implementation of this project. (b) That a

devotional prayer guide be made available to the churches of our constituency. This booklet to include devotional and prayer requests presented by the boards and committees of our General Conference. GCY, 1963, p. 98.

DISTRICTS, AREAS, AND CONFERENCE INTERIM

1903 -- Regarding expansion of the Conference into districts
(a) That since our church (Conference) is expanding into Saskatchewan and possibly into the northwestern territory beyond, the need for enlarging into a northern and southern conference has become evident, to make possible a more active participation and thus help 26 promote the extension of the Kingdom of God. (b) To proceed orderly and in blessing (to meet this need) and to preserve the unity of the Spirit, the committee for Conference expansion recommended the following provision which was unanimously accepted:
(1) That every third year the general Conference take place, at which the following be ordered for three years: foreign missions, publication, education, and all endeavors of general Conference nature. (2) That the southern and northern conferences meet annually, at which home missions and other local matters are discussed. (3) That local churches and stations go with their concerns to the respective conference of which they are a part. (4) That the engagement of evangelists of one conference by the other be done only by mutual agreement. (5) That Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado belong to the southern conference, whereas South and North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and the Canadian Northwest to the northern. (6) Relative to Oregon, the church there may decide whether to belong to the southern or

to the northern conference. GCY, 1903, pp. 280, 281.

1904 -- Districting of Conference postponed That the item (of expanding the Conference into districts) be left for one year, and that the Conference then consider the matter. GCY, 1904, pp. 308, 309.

1905 -- Regarding Conference expansion into five districts

(a) That the work of expanding the Conference (into five districts) be now begun, but that a general convention of the Conference yet be held next year (1906). GCY, 1905, p. 332.

(b) That a committee be nominated ... by the chairman of the Conference ...to work out a plan proposing the basis on which the Conference is to be divided ... and report yet at this (1905) Conference convention. GCY, 1905, pp. 332, 333.

(c) (The committee reported) That the Conference be divided into five districts: (1) Oklahoma, (2) Kansas, (3) Nebraska and Colorado, (4) Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, (5) Canada. Churches in Oregon and California be free to choose the district which they wish to join. GCY, 1905, p. 333.

(d) That the plan (outlined under c) be accepted, but that each district be at liberty to amalgamate with another district if necessary, and if finding itself too weak to function as a separate district. GCY, 1905, p. 333.

1906 -- Regarding expansion of the Conference

(a) That in order to expand the Conference (into districts) there first be worked out the proper provisions, so that upon the basis of a constitution the Conference be expanded without impairing the overall Brotherhood unity. (b) That the need to proceed in this direction has long been apparent, because our domain is constantly expanding, so that it becomes too difficult to convene as a

general Conference every year. GCY, 1906, p. 356.

1906 -- Incorporation and constitution (a) That we incorporate as one general Conference on the basis of a constitution. (b) That (the brethren) H. Voth and N. N. Hiebert in collaboration with the foreign and home missions committees prepare a proposed constitution and submit it to the next (1907) convention of the Conference for consideration. GCY, 1906, p. 356.

1907 -- Report on constitution That the Brethren Heinrich Voth and N. N. Hiebert (who reported that they had worked out a constitution, and which had been examined at this convention of the Conference by the foreign and home missions committees and recommended by them for acceptance) publish the proposed constitution in the *Zionsbote*, so that at the next convention of the Conference the document can be examined paragraph by paragraph, and with needed modifications and supplementations may then be adopted. GCY, 1907, p. 380.

1908 -- Adoption of first constitution That the (1908 version) constitution (first presented in 1907, and published in the *Zionsbote*, with modifications made by a special committee of ten appointed for that purpose, which was then read to the delegates of the 1908 Conference) be adopted. GCY, 1908, p. 396.

1908 -- Regarding expansion of Conference into districts (Since the majority of delegates were against a final vote on the question of dividing the Conference into districts) That the matter of expanding the Conference (into districts) be taken up as point number one on the agenda of the next (1909) Conference according to the following proposed plan, with the provision that the program committee be authorized to make changes in the plan: That the Conference be divided into (districts) (1) Oklahoma, (2) Kansas, (3)

Nebraska and Colorado, (4) Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, (5) Canada. The churches in Oregon and California are free to choose the district they wish to join. GCY, 1908, p. 397.

1909 -- Conference organized into three districts

(a) That the Conference expand into three district conferences which meet annually as follows: The Southern District Conference - Oklahoma, Kansas, and Escondido, California. The other California churches may join either the Southern or the Central district. The Central District Conference -- Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Oregon. The Northern District Conference -- Canada and Rosehill, North Dakota. Manitoba and Rosehill, North Dakota, may join either the Northern or the Central district. (b) That the district conferences are to deal with home missions and other local matters, and the General M.B. Conference with (foreign missions, publication, education, and) all endeavors of the General Conference. GCY, 1909, pp. 404-409.

1909 -- The General M.B. Conference interim raised to three years

That the General M.B. Conference meet once in three years. (The first triennial Conference met in 1912). GCY, 1909, p. 409.

1936 -- Note: Demarcation of districts With the adoption of the 1936, M.B. Conference constitution (GCY, 1936, pp. 34, 35) the following demarcation of districts was adopted: (a) Southern district, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas. (b) Central district, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Michigan. (c) Northern district, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia. (d) Pacific district, California, Oregon. (See 1936 constitution of the Conference of the

Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, p. 43).

1939 -- Ontario churches admitted as a district conference

That since the General M.B. Conference, according to its constitution, grants membership to all churches of like faith ... the Conference is ready to grant General M.B. Conference membership to the Ontario Conference. Since the Ontario Conference has been registered with the Canadian Government as "Mennonite Brethren Church," and because of its extended distance from other M.B. churches in America and Canada, we deem it suitable to designate the respective conference as "Ontario District Conference." GCY, 1939, pp. 57, 58.

1945 -- Note: Northern District Conference changes name and incorporates

In the year 1945 the Northern District Conference voted to incorporate under the name: "The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America." Its charter and bylaws were registered in Ottawa, Canada, under the date of January 2, 1946.

(See Constitution, Charter and By-laws of the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, 1946.)

1954 -- Area conferences emerge

That the Conference adopt the revised revision of the constitution, also known as draft No. 2, as a working basis for the next three years (1954-1957). GCY, 1954, p. 18.

(Note: This draft of the constitution contained the area plan of Conference organization which prevailed until its formal acceptance by the final adoption of the Conference constitution in August, 1963). GCY, 1963, p. 35.

1959 -- Districts within the United States formally organized into an area conference Although the district conferences within the United States had convened as an area convention since October 16 and 17, 1957,

the Central, Pacific and Southern District Conferences formally voted to organize as an area conference on August 18, 1959, under the official name "The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church." (See U.S. Conference Yearbook, 1959, p. 6)

1963 -- Area Conferences established That to facilitate certain activities of the brotherhood more efficiently, the churches of the General M.B. Conference are grouped into area conferences and district conferences in the U.S.A. and provincial conferences in Canada, and in other areas in accordance with their needs. However, these subdivisions remain organically united with the General Conference and are subordinate to it. Constitution, 1963. p. 19, Sec. 3.

1963 -- Subdivisions of the General M.B. Conference That, the U.S. Conferences, the Canadian, the South American, European, and any other M.B. area conferences with their subdivisions are organic parts of the General Conference. Constitution, 1963, pp. 43, 44, Sec. 1 (b)

DIVORCE (See also adultery)

1883 -- Divorce and church membership That in answer to the question relative to accepting into membership a man or woman who has been divorced, married again, and now after conversion seeks membership in our churches, the Conference decided without a dissenting vote that even the seemingly innocent party be barred from membership until God has revealed the innocency by the death of the guilty party. Since marriage is instituted by God himself, His action should be awaited. GCY, 1883, p. 16.

1930 -- Divorce and church membership That in regard to persons who were divorced and married again and now seek

membership in the M.B. Church, the Conference referred to a resolution of 1883 (GCY, 1883, p. 16). The following Bible citations were given to substantiate the position of the Conference: Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7: 10, 11. GCY, 1930, p. 59.

1939 -- Marrying a divorcee

That in reply to the case where a sister of the church has married a divorced man whose first wife is still living, the Conference refers to Conference resolution of 1883, p. 16, and Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11. GCY, 1939, p. 58.

DOCTRINES, PRINCIPLES, INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF M.B. CHURCHES, STATEMENT OF

1951 -- An appeal for a reaffirmation of the historic principle of the interrelationship of Mennonite Brethren Churches. Part II, of Statement.

Statement summary: (a) That each local church is independent in the administration of its internal affairs and functions as an independent unit. (b) That we as a Conference are a Brotherhood of Churches. We are, as our official name implies, "The Church" of the Mennonite Brethren Conference of North America, not the Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches of North America. As such we carry mutual responsibility for the spiritual conditions in the churches and for the presentation of the purity of faith and doctrine as expressed in our practice. (c) That we as churches of the Conference recognize resolutions and decisions of the Conference as morally binding and obligate ourselves to observe and carry them out to the best of our ability as faithful and cooperating members of the Brotherhood. (For full statement of Part II, see GCY, 1951, pp. 127-130). GCY, 1955, pp. 129, 130.

1951 -- Proposed ways and means to be considered as a possible way to meet the expressed needs and strengthen existing weaknesses. Part III, of Statement Board of Elders. The proposition to establish a Board of Elders for the General M.B. Conference was not accepted, but referred to the churches for further study. GCY, 1951, pp. 130, 191, 132, 133, and p. 144, Part III, "Proposed ways and means...."

1951 – A. Efforts towards unification of our doctrinal position. Part IV of Statement Provisions. (1) That the Board of Reference and Counsel be charged with the preparation of a supplement to our confession of faith in which all doctrinal questions which in the light of present day theological tendencies appear insufficiently covered be enlarged upon for the purpose of further clarity and more distinct definition. (Points which may require consideration in such a supplement are: The filling with the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the preservation and security of the believers, eschatology, and others).

(2) Such a supplement shall be prepared within the first two years of the next Conference term, and submitted to the district conferences for consideration on specially arranged faith conferences which may require a time of several days or a week.

(3) That all our ministers and teachers (including the personnel in our educational institutions) obligate themselves to be true to all principles of the confession of faith of our Conference as well as of the supplement after the latter has been adopted by our next General Conference.

(4) That any minister who in principal scriptural points of doctrine cannot agree with the Brotherhood shall consider himself in violation of the vow taken before the Lord and the church at the time of his ordination in which he promised to be faithful and true to the doctrinal principles and practices of

the Scriptures as understood by the Mennonite Brethren Conference.

(5) That if at any time a minister brother in the Conference finds himself not in inward agreement with principal points of Doctrine, he is advised to share his difficulty with the Committee of Reference and Counsel of his respective district whose duty it shall be to assist such a brother in the removal of his difficulty through united study of the Scriptures. If such efforts on the part of the Committee of Reference and Counsel fail to accomplish the inward unification, the respective brother shall be asked to withdraw voluntarily from the gospel ministry in our midst.

(6) That where a minister brother, who is not found one with us in doctrine fails to withdraw voluntarily, it shall be the duty of the Committee of Reference and Counsel to notify the local church of such condition who in return is responsible to the Brotherhood to withdraw from such a brother the right to preach in our Conference. GCY, 1951, pp. 133, 134.

1951 -- B. A suggested Scriptural and practical guide in matters of interrelationship between the church, its ministers, leaders and pastors

That the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the General Conference feels deeply responsible for the complex circumstances which during recent years have repeatedly developed in matters of relationship between some churches, its ministers, leaders and pastors.

The Committee recognizes that we as a Conference should have offered more guidance to our churches in such matters in order to prevent procedures and relationships which are unscriptural. We believe that the following recommendations are fully in keeping with the principles which our 32 fathers laid down for us, and that they are fully documented in the Holy Scriptures. Our fathers held that

"according to the practice of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles, God has given to His church the power, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to ordain ministers and servants for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Matt. 10, Luke 10, Acts 13:1-4, 20:28; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5; Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-14. (Article III, Par. 37 of the M.B. Confession of Faith). And so, in keeping with this historic view and practice and with the above stated motivation, the Committee submits to the Conference the following outline of Scriptural principles and methods of procedure to be recommended to our churches for guidance until such time, when an official provision for these needs can be made by the Conference:

1951 -- (II The responsibility of the church with regards to the ministry of the church That the example and principles of Scripture as set above in the 37th paragraph under article III, of our confession of faith remains the Biblical standard applicable in all ages of the church. There is to be a praying and expectant waiting upon the Lord for the separation of workers out of the body of the church by Him who is the Head of the church.

(a) Ministers and deacons in the church carry the special responsibility to recognize the call of God upon the lives of brethren, and should therefore make it a constant concern to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit in this matter.

(b) For practical purposes it is advisable that the ministers and deacons meet once or twice a year, depending on the size of the church, to consider the working of the Spirit in the fellowship so they may discover whom the Spirit has chosen for special service. (Acts 13:1-4).

(c) A personal contact with brethren and sisters, of whom the church leadership may

have the impression that they have been called of God should be effected to ascertain from them in what fashion the Lord has dealt with them in making known to them His will for their lives.

(d) The creation of opportunities for service in the church, in Sunday school, young people's work, and occasional assistance in the presentation of the Word in general assemblies should constitute the second step in the development of church workers.

(e) A brother who shows ability in such a *ministry* and meets the spiritual qualifications for such service (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 3: 17; 4:25; Titus 1:5-9: 2:7) should be given an opportunity to share with the church fellowship his inward experience of a call to the work.

(f) The response of the church to such an expressed inward leading of a brother, confirmed by the impression of the servants of the church to such an expressed inward leading of a brother, confirmed by the impression of the servants of the church concerning such a purpose of God in the life of the respective member, can be voiced in a formal call of the brother to be co-laborer in the ministry of the Word.

(g) The confirmation in the act of an ordination should be considered only after such a candidate has proven himself as a fruitful servant and should be carried out under the principles adopted by the General Conference upon recommendations of the Committee of Reference and Counsel. (See Yearbook, 1948, page 106, par. IX). We, as the Mennonite Brethren Church, still consider the above outlined gradual development of a worker the Scriptural method of calling and commissioning a minister. A church that faithfully will seek the Lord's will in the separation of workers out of their midst, will thereby discover great resources for spiritual growth.

We need to recognize that the historic policy of the M.B. Church, to select its leaders and ministers from their own midst, has proven itself very effective and should be continued in the future wherever possible.

The emphasis above does not exclude the recognition that the Lord calls our workers to His service also without the aid of men as was the case with the prophets and apostles and as had the house of Stephanus addicted themselves to the ministry of the Saints. (See Confession of Faith, footnote under No. 39).

(h) In cases, where workers had not the benefit of a gradual development into the ministry of the church, but have come from other circles or schools directly into the church of the M.B. Conference, the candidate is subject to a personal examination by the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the respective district as to his call to the service, his doctrinal position, experience and church practice. Only where the result of such an examination is positive, may the respective worker be invited to become a helper in the service. His confirmation through an ordination should not be considered before he has proven himself as a worker for 2 to 3 years, when his ordination may be considered subject to the regulations of the Conference as to the examination and qualifications.

(i) The spiritual qualifications for a servant and minister are contained in Confession of Faith, Article III, par. 39.

(j) The work of several ministers in one local church of whom one serves as pastor, has proven itself very effective for the strengthening of the spiritual structure of a church, and is also distinctly Scriptural (Acts 13:1-4; 20:17; Phil. 1:1).

It serves also as a supporting, protecting and guiding factor for a pastor in his responsibility of leadership. A cooperative service in the body of a small brotherhood of ministers is the best safeguard for the church

and has proven to be possible and very successful where the servants of the Lord had the virtue of humility and love. GCY, 1951, pp. 135, 136.

1951 -- (2) The election of a church leader Under this heading we choose to treat the principles and policies governing the service and position of a brother who is the responsible leading minister of the church, but follows a vocation or profession to earn his livelihood. The spiritual duties and responsibilities of such a brother in principle do not differ from those of a full-time pastor.

(a) The principle of a church leader earning his sustenance through a vocation or profession that he follows besides the ministry, has proven itself very effective in the history of our denomination and should be encouraged to be continued where circumstances permit this system of church leadership without causing the work of the church to suffer. An assistance of several brethren in the ministry is in such cases essential.

(b) The vocational burden of a leading brother, however, must not become a cause for the neglect of the spiritual program and needs of the flock. Where this danger arises, the church is to recognize its Scriptural obligation to supplement the physical needs of such a brother. Where a mere assistance is not sufficient, the church should not hesitate to adopt the principle of full support for their leading minister in order that God's work may not suffer. (Gal. 8:6; 1 Cor. 9: 7-14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18). The church becomes responsible before God by withholding the needed material support from their laborers and thereby causes the spiritual ministry and care to suffer. GCY, 1951, p. 136.

(c) The appointment of a leader from the ordained, and by the Conference recognized, ministers of the church must also be effected by an orderly election. A minimum of a 2/3

majority vote shall be considered necessary to make an election to this position valid. A majority of 3/4 or over is preferable. A mere majority is not sufficient to call a man into such a responsible position of leadership.

(d) The appointment of brethren to the leadership of the church, who are not ministers, shall only be considered in such cases where a church has no minister, or where there is no one of them qualified for such a position. "In the household of the M.B. Church, the order obtains that an Elder or a substitute for the Elder acts as moderator of local churches and as leader." (Confession of Faith, page 27, Article III, par. 45).

The judgment as to insufficient leadership and administrative qualifications in a minister brother, who is in the church as the only possible candidate for the leadership, should be established by the church in consultation with the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the respective district, before a non-minister brother is elected to this post. As soon as the church again has a minister brother qualified for the leadership, the church should transfer such responsibility to him.

(e) The spiritual qualifications set forth under Article III, par. 39, of our Confession of Faith apply to all servants of the Lord irrespective of the method by which they were called to the ministry.

(f) The time of office. The ministry of a church leader cannot be treated like that of civil office or to that of an officer in a social, political, or philanthropic organization. A God approved appointment of a church leader is the result of divine leading of the Spirit in the church attained through sincere seeking of the will of God in such matters. The respective brother chosen must also experience a personal communication from the Lord, as the Archbishop of the church, who through the Word and the church makes the assignment to such a

responsibility. To subject such sacred appointment to the civil principle of annual balloting is a dangerous trifling with very sacred things and offers a wide open opportunity to Satan to weaken the effectiveness of a divine appointment. A church for practical reasons should observe the full right to review the question whether they have understood the Lord in appointing a brother to the leadership; such review possibly to be made after a year of active leadership of the brother, but having found positive confirmation, it is not to be a question subject to an annual ballot election because such procedure is destructive to the principle of divine guidance in the church and in the life of a worker. The stated principle applies to both the case of a church leader as well as a full-time pastor. Principles governing the withdrawal of a brother from the leadership or the dismissal of a brother from the office by action of the church find a careful analysis under par. 4, "Change of Church Leadership and Pastors."

(g) Compensation for service. A church leader, who follows a vocation to earn his livelihood and serves the church without receiving any compensation for the work, is bringing a sacrifice of sweet savour unto the Lord and will be rewarded for the sacrifices which such a service demands. (1 Cor. 9: 15-19).

A church, however, is responsible to recognize the tremendous responsibility which such a brother carries before the Lord according to Hebrews 13:17. His position does not only demand much of his time but demands also his best spiritual and mental capacities. Even though a church may receive such service gratefully as rendered unto the Lord, she still remains responsible to the word of Gal. 6:6 and 1 Cor. 9:7-14; and in response to such truth offers an expression of appreciation to such a brother in the form of a monetary gift

or support not to come from individual members of the church but as a presentation from the body of the church only.

1951 -- (3) The selection of a church pastor Under the given heading are considered principles and policies which govern the various aspects of the ministry of a church leader who is remunerated by the church for his work and gives his entire time to this service. The term "pastor" here is used in the relative sense only.

(a) The call of the pastor

(1) The call of a brother from the ministers of the church to the position as a pastor may well be undertaken after he has laboured in said church and by strength of his ability as worker, his love for the church, and by virtue of his faithfulness has gained the confidence of the church. This constitutes a desirable basis for the selection of a pastor. The principles governing such an appointment are the same as suggested in the appointment of a church leader. (See "Church Leader," par. C).

(2) Where a church, after a prayerful seeking for the will of God, finds that she has no brother in her fellowship who can meet the responsibility as leader and pastor, the following policies of procedure are suggested:

(a) The church, after fasting and prayer, seeking for the guidance of the Lord, charges the Church Council to select an appropriate candidate to fill the position. This selection should be done with the consulting benefits of the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the respective district. (A pulpit committee in the conference specifically charged with the responsibility of assisting the churches in finding a pastor, may be even preferable). The members of the church who feel an inward leading of the Lord as to a possible candidate, inform the church council of such impression of their own heart. No personal relationship of friendship or family ties are

to enter into the consideration because of its subjective influence which obstructs the finding of God's will in the matter.

(b) The church council, with the praying support of the church, seeks a unifying leading of the Spirit toward a candidate for such a post.

(c) Having come to an inward agreement as to the candidate, the council must carefully investigate the suitability of such a brother. The following principles must be very definitely established:

(1) Is the brother a deeply spiritual person besides his abilities as a preacher and leader? (2) Is he faithful and consistent in his loyalty to the M.B. Church in faith, doctrine, and church policy? (3) Has he proven himself as a pastor in practical experience and what is his recommendation from his former fields of service? (4) Secure the confirmation of the Committee of Reference and Counsel as to the spirituality, doctrinal soundness, and denominational loyalty in the form of a written recommendation based on definite evidences that confirm such qualities. (5) The next question to weigh is whether the brother is suitable for the particular needs of the local circumstances.

(d) After the preceding principles have been established as positive, the church council inquires whether the respective brother is available for the candidacy. Only with the consent of the respective brother should his candidacy be presented to the church.

(e) At no time should a church consider several candidates at the same time and offer to the church a choice of preference by a majority of votes. Such procedure carries destructive influences which endanger the church's ability to recognize the leading of God in such important decisions.

(f) The church having received the announcement from their church council as to the candidate they have selected under the guidance of God, sets aside a period for fasting

and prayer, after which the voice the church is expressed in the form of a secret ballot. A two-thirds majority shall be considered a minimum requirement for his appointment for leadership.

(g) A brother, who is not a member of our Conference, cannot be considered for the candidacy for a Pastorate in a church of the M.B. Conference, except the following steps are observed:

(1) The church considering such candidacy must first apply to the Committee of Reference and Counsel and secure their endorsement of the candidate.

(2) The Committee of Reference and Counsel calls such prospective candidate for the purpose of a personal interview and examination with special emphasis upon his doctrinal position, his testimony of life, his past record of service in churches where he ministered before. Where the respective committee finds such a brother honestly sincere, with a testimony of life without reproach, sound in doctrine and in full agreement with the policies and practices of the M.B. Church, it may recommend the consideration of his candidacy to the respective local church.

(h) In case such a brother is called to the church, his ordination as a minister of the M.B. Church is not considered till he has proven himself true to the testimony he has offered. This period of probation may last from one to three years, as circumstances may demand. The approval of the Conference, based on the recommendation of the Committee of Reference and Counsel and the request of the respective local church whom the brother serves, for such ordination authorizes the confirmation of the brother through ordination. The principles governing ordination are those adopted by the General Conference in 1948. (Yearbook, 1948, pp. 106, 107).

(b) Time of service for a pastor. Principles as to the time of service stated under "Church Leader" also apply to the time of service of the pastor. After some time of service in the church, a period which may be one or two years, where the pastor and the church have been convinced that they understand the Lord in the leading of the church and the brother, a severing of established relationship should be considered only if definite reasons exist as they are outlined in the paragraph "Change of Church Leadership and Pastors." The annual election method, borrowed by many churches from the procedures from civil government and organizations, rob the cause of Christ of the important consciousness that God calls his servants and gives teachers to the churches. It is also a destructive principle to real spiritual growth in the church. Occasional changes may become necessary but must be governed by Scriptural motives and Biblical procedures. However, both, the pastor and the church, should be at principles governing are outlined in the liberty to consider the advisability of severing their relationship, should circumstances warrant such a consideration.

(c) Compensation of the pastor. The principle of supplying for a pastor the means of livelihood is Scriptural. Its teaching leaves no room for diversified opinion; Gal. 6:6, 1 Cor. 9:7-13, state this responsibility of the church clearly. The important emphasis of these Scriptures is to exhort the church to meet such obligation gladly, and to advise the pastor not to make financial demands which in any way condition his service.

The church should agree upon a definite value to be paid to their minister. Such remuneration to be paid from a church treasury maintained by contributions from the members of the church.

Where the Lord leads individual brethren and sisters in the church to offer financial assistance to their pastor above the designated salary to meet special circumstances of need, it is suggested that such gifts be channeled to the pastor through avenues which leave the name of the benefactor unknown to the pastor. This precautionary measure is suggested in order to safe-guard the impartiality of the pastor and church leader in his relationship towards the flock (Mel. 2:9; 1 Tim. 5: 20-21; Jas. 2:1-9; 3: 17). Our pastors we would desire to exhort to follow the example of Samuel (1 Sam. 12:2-5) who would not receive any gifts that his eyes be not blinded. Unto pastors who claim a strength of impartiality which cannot be influenced by personal gifts from the members of the church we call to consider the word of Paul "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. Partiality is a sin which may enter into our lives without us being conscious of it.

1951 -- (4) Change of church leadership and pastors

The necessity for occasional changes in the leadership of a church or in the pastoral service of a church is well recognized. The important principle in the matter is to find the Lord's will as to the right time and by what procedures such changes can be an honor unto the Lord. The following suggestions may prove of help:

(a) The guidance of God in the termination of a service in the church as pastor or leader is just as important as the assurance of His will in the appointment and to the acceptance of such office. The church as well as the respective brother must exercise much caution not to violate the providential leading of God. A mistake in such action may become the cause of great spiritual loss for the church as well as for the pastor.

(b) Changes effected upon the request of the pastor or leader:

(1) Fundamental principles that govern the finding of God's will must qualify every possible reason which may lead a pastor or leader to request his release from the responsibility of such important service. A definite call from the Lord to a different field of work, circumstances of health or conditions and needs in the family, an inward release of responsibility for the position through a growing conviction that his work in a particular church is done or whatever positive reasons there may arise. It is vitally important that such reasons be of positive character. It is very regretful where negative reasons, caused through improper relationship between minister and church, become the cause for a worker to want to withdraw. In such circumstances it is vital that the negative elements first be removed before any leaving of the field is considered (2) Where a brother has come to the conclusion that God has released him from a field for definitely positive reasons, he should feel responsible to notify the church of the necessity of his leaving in the form of a letter. Such letter of resignation to be submitted to the church six months before such request shall take effect, or in accordance with the stipulation of the local church constitution.

(3) The church in a regular church assembly considers such a request from the leader or pastor seeking the Lord's will in the matter, and if she can understand the brother, to grant his request. Where a church as a body cannot find the liberty to release the brother, the latter should prayerfully and earnestly seek whether he has understood the Lord correctly, or whether His Master has some possible way by which He will enable him to continue his ministry to the flock.

(4) A church has the full right to express its will regarding the continuation or termination of a leader's or pastor's services. Nevertheless, the church is obliged to

proceed very cautiously in the formation of such an important decision. The desire of the church to benefit by the continued service of their brother will be an encouragement to continue in the work of his position.

(5) Where in the periodical expression of the church's attitude towards their leader and pastor, through a vote of approval or disapproval, there appears a negative expression, the pastor should submit himself to a thorough self-examination as to the causes of such attitude to discover whether they are of circumstantial or of personal nature and every effort should be made to remove such conditions.

(6) Where the percentage of negative expressions exceeds one-third of the church membership, the pastor should earnestly seek the face of God and counsel with other brethren in order to come to an objective conclusion whether it would be to the advantage of the church that he withdraw and assist to find a brother who may be more acceptable for the position. The welfare of the church in such cases must receive the primary consideration, and God will marvelously undertake for His servant who honestly seeks the welfare of God's flock and sacrifices his own preferences. Where the above outlined principles are not observed by a pastor brother, the church council should advise him to submit his resignation in order to effect a wholesome withdrawal and change in leadership. The help of the Committee of Reference and Counsel should be sought in such cases in order that they may serve as an impartial mediator between church and pastor. Every possible scripturally consistent means should be employed not to dismiss a leader or pastor by a hearty motion of the church because of the high and sacred office which it concerns. A church must be kept mindful that a minister is a servant anointed

of the Lord and cannot be dealt with like a hireling.

The question whether a retiring pastor should remain at his post until the successor has been found and appointed depends on the circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of the brother. The ideal and more desirable procedure is when the church needs not to be without a shepherd but that the leading brother can personally transfer the responsibility of this office to his successor. Whether this is possible or not should be agreed upon in consultation between the church council and the pastor and a recommendation presented to the church for adoption to cover the specific case concerned.

1951 -- (5) The discipline of the minister Satan, in his battle against the church, does his utmost to defeat the ministry. Every faithful leader and pastor is a special target for temptations and devilish attacks. Paul expresses this danger in the statement: "I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Strict self-discipline is a fundamental qualification for the ministry. The church must also recognize that their leader and ministers are always the first objects of Satan's attack and therefore surround them with prayer in their daily intercession.

Charges arising in the church against a minister are not to be dealt with as a charge against the membership of the church, but the following Scriptural principle must be observed: "Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses." 1 Tim. 5: 19. The word of one brother against an elder is not acceptable except the charge can be established on the strength of two or three witnesses, meaning those who actually know the wrong to have been committed.

Where an established charge can be laid against a minister, it is the advice that the church do not proceed with the discipline of such a servant but that the matter be referred to the Committee of Reference and Counsel who then have the liberty to investigate the case of the brother. Where the charges are found true, the Committee will suggest a Scriptural procedure to deal with the case of discipline of the servant of the Lord. It is a dangerous policy for a church to take the case of a minister's discipline into its own hands. Because it concerns the leadership, the church is frequently without the benefit of a strong and experienced guidance and much harm has been caused to the church itself as well as much injustice has been committed. A minister brother is also entitled to the evaluation of his wrong in act or attitude by brethren of his equal position and this privilege should not be taken from him.

1951-- (6) Discipline of a church for unscriptural relationships and actions against a minister

A church which refuses to follow the outlined procedure in dealing with wrongs committed by ministers and pastors, but chooses to take these matters into their own hands, becomes responsible to God and to the Conference for such procedures. The minister has a right of appeal to the Conference through the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Named Committee has the privilege and right to investigate such matters and bring a report and recommendation to the Conference. (Article VIII, Sec. 1, paragraph d).

We pray there may never be an occasion which would necessitate such action. Rather let us follow the Scriptural injunction of Eph. 4:3, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." GCY, 1951, pp. 133-144.

1951 -- C. Suggested efforts towards unification

Suggested efforts towards unification of our churches in Scriptural administration and policies of ethical and spiritual standards of life and practice. (1) That the Minister's Manual under preparation by order of the General Conference (1943 session) be enlarged to serve as a guide book containing all aspects pertaining to the spiritual administration of the Mennonite Brethren Church as well as an exhaustive treatise on the Scriptural standards for life and practice in the church, closely documented by Scriptural reference. (2) That the Manual further contain all Conference resolutions related to the above mentioned principles to supplement the documentation of expressed principles. (3) That the manuscript for the manual, prepared in cooperation with various brethren from the Conference, be examined by the Committee of Reference and Counsel and, after adoption by this body, be printed for distribution in the churches to serve as a guide book to ministers and church workers. GCY, 1951, p. 143.

EDUCATION

1884 -- School issue

That we approve the beginning of the school issue, and ... endorse the (formed) school association, wishing it God's blessing. GCY, 1884, p. 26.

1898 -- Bible school

That the Missions-Committee look about for teaching personnel in order that the Conference may start its own Bible school. GCY, 1898, p. 208.

1898 -- McPherson College

That the offer by McPherson College to grant us free use of several class rooms and complete charge of the German department be tabled for the time being. GCY, 1896, p. 209.

1899 -- McPherson College offer accepted That we receive free-will offerings in all of our churches to raise the \$400.00 (per year) salary support of the teacher, J. F. Duerksen, instructing in and in charge of the German department at McPherson College. GCY, 1899, p. 216.

1908 -- Tabor College School Association (That) by a show of hands the Conference delegation voted to wish the brethren of the Tabor College School Association the Lord's blessings in their undertaking, and assured them the confidence of the churches. GCY, 1908, p. 396.

1915 -- Tabor College theology department That in regard to the Conference assuming the responsibility for the Theological department of Tabor College, and to provide a teacher for the same, it was decided to elect a committee with authorization to take the initial steps to carry out this provision. (A committee of five brethren was elected). GCY, 1915, p. 465.

1919 -- Conference advisory committee for Tabor College (After a discussion from the floor pointing out the necessity and value of a Conference school), it was decided to elect a committee of the Conference to serve in an advisory and supervisory capacity to the board of directors and faculty of Tabor College. (A committee of five was elected). GCY, 1919, p. 494.

1924 -- Conference jubilee festival and fund That the Conference recommends (a) That the churches commemorate the founding of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America by way of a 50th Jubilee Festival in 1928, and gather a fund of \$100,000 before the next General M.B. Conference meets, to benefit our youth (spiritually and educationally). (b) That the Conference elect a committee of nine members in which every district (Northern, Southern, Central, Western) be represented, with the following assignment: (1) To carry

out the assignment made in 1921 (GCY, 1921, p. 36) under "school concern" "to observe a 'school day' on which the churches remember Tabor College by prayer and gifts." (2) To implement the resolution regarding the observance of the Conference 50th jubilee celebration. GCY, 1924, p. 61.

1927 -- The \$3.15 levy for Tabor College That in all of our churches an annual levy of \$3.15 per member be raised for the next three years, and that members in the churches who are better situated financially make up for those less able (to contribute), and that during the following Conference interim preliminary work be done in our churches with a view of accepting Tabor College as a Conference school at the next Conference (session). (in 1930). GCY, 1927, p. 47.

1927 -- Jubilee fund and its distribution That the churches (a) pursue energetically the gathering of the jubilee fund and to send all moneys collected to the treasurer of the Jubilee Fund Committee in order to establish the Jubilee Fund for the benefit of our youth. (b) That one half of what is gathered be turned over to Tabor College, and that determination of where to apply the other half be left to the individual churches. GCY, 1927, p. 48.

1930 -- Conference school committee and support of Tabor College That the Conference adopt the resolutions presented by the school committee of four members which had been elected by the four district conferences: (and that) (a) The Conference recognizes the great importance of the school (T.C.) in general and also particularly for the churches, and thanks for the educational ministry of the school, and for the insight given into the work. (b) The Conference values the offer on the part of the Tabor College Corporation to transfer itself unconditionally to the

Conference. The Conference, however, is compelled to report that at the time there is not sufficient general sentiment in the churches in favor of accepting the school; but it is willing to pledge its support to the school during the next Conference interim with a contribution of \$10,000 per year.

(c) This promised annual contribution is to be gathered through monthly offerings in all churches of the Conference, and if need be through special offerings. If during any year the established goal is not attained through offerings, the Conference appropriates the missing amount from other treasuries, towards which first of all, surpluses from the earnings of the Publishing House may be utilized.

(d) In order to carry out the above resolutions, the Conference elects a committee of four brethren, one from each district, and requests the directors of Tabor College to grant these brethren full co-worker status in the work for Tabor College.

(e) The committee organizes itself, with a chairman, secretary and treasurer. All funds (from the churches) are to be sent to the treasurer of this committee, who in turn transmits them from time to time to the treasurer of Tabor College.

(f) It is the further duty of the committee to serve in this important educational ministry in the spirit of the Conference, for which purpose it should visit the school at least once a year, and if possible, at the time when the main business of the school directors is being transacted. Traveling expenses are to be defrayed from this treasury.

(g) This is not a final or permanent arrangement. The Conference desires thereby to safeguard the continuation of the school. It also hopes to gain additional insight through this collaboration, which will enable it to formulate ensuing decisions

that could lead to a full acceptance of the school.

(In the discussion great enthusiasm was shown in favor of the above resolutions. The Tabor College Alumni Association also pledged to supply another 110,000 per year towards support of the school. The same school committee, J. J. Wiebe, H. S. Voth, R. C. Seibel, K. G. Neufeld, was reelected to be the Conference school committee, and asked to represent the Conference on the Board of Directors of Tabor College). GCY, 1930, pp. 52, 53.

1933 -- Tabor College transferred to the General M.B. Conference

(a) The Board of Directors of the Tabor College Corporation presented its official resolution to the Conference as follows:

"Decided, to earnestly request the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church, and the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference, to accept Tabor College as its conference school."

(b) The Conference decided to call a special meeting of the delegates and all friends of education for Tuesday evening, October 24, 1933, to give due consideration to the above offer from the Tabor College Corporation.

(c) After a lengthy discussion of the school issue, the Conference elected a special committee of nine brethren (two from the northern, two from the central, two from the Pacific, and three from the southern districts) to work out a plan on the basis of which the school could be accepted by the Conference.

(d) After the special committee submitted its report and plan on the next day (Oct. 25, 1933), the Conference instructed the delegates to take the plan of accepting Tabor College to their home churches for consideration. To the churches not represented by delegates, the matter was to be presented in writing. The Conference also

decided to publish the plan proposing the acceptance of the school in the *Zionsbote* and in pamphlet form in order to acquaint everyone with the issue to be decided. The proposed plan provided that if two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of votes in the churches at large were cast in favor, Tabor College would thereby be accepted as a Conference school. The results of the voting in each church were to be sent to the chairman or the secretary of the new Conference Board of Directors of Tabor College to be elected at this Conference. Tabor College School Plan adopted by the 1933 Conference delegation subject to a 2/3 majority ratification by the churches of the Conference.

I. Why we are in need of a Conference school

- (a) To offer our youth who are eager to learn a place where they can acquire an education based upon the fundamentals of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
- (b) To protect our youth from the dangers of anti-Christian influences that prevail at many schools.
- (c) To train our youth on Biblical bases for service in the churches, and also for service in the public schools as teachers, and as Bible teachers in related schools.
- (d) To safeguard the unity in the spiritual endeavors of our Conference.
- (e) To preserve and cultivate the educational interest within our Brotherhood.
- (f) To offer a higher education in learned subjects from the Christian point of view.
- (g) To implement the educational endeavors (envisaged and begun) by our fathers.

II. The significance of the school for the Brotherhood

The past history of Tabor College demonstrates what blessing the Brotherhood derives from a Conference school, as was expressed at the previous General Conference held in the year 1930. Page 51 of the (1930) Yearbook states: "In the past

22 years, 5212 persons have enrolled at Tabor College. Of these, 649 graduated from one of a number of courses.... A good number, really several hundred, here made the decision to live and work for the Lord. The avenues for valuable service by our students are numerous. Directly engaged in mission or church work are 40 missionaries, 57 evangelists and preachers, and many Sunday school workers. In addition there are (among the Alumni) 19 doctors, 46 nurses, some 400 elementary school teachers, 160 businessmen, many farmers, etc.

III. The acquisition of the school buildings

(a) The buildings of Tabor College being offered by the Tabor College School Association had a former value of \$167,000 (The administration building \$133,000 and the dormitory \$34,000); the campus ground \$15,000, the library \$12,000, the instructional equipment \$20,000. Total worth of the property \$214,000.

Against this property there is a debt of \$23,036.59. To this sum must be added \$1,440 interest in arrears on the Mission Endowment Fund loan. This raises the debt to \$24,476.59. Aside from this, the school needs to pay the interest on the "annuity contracts," which amounts to \$800 annually.

Note--Summary of debt: Mortgage, \$12,000; interest in arrears, 12,100; notes payable to the "aid society", 81,200; other notes payable \$9,116.59; total, \$24,476.59.

(b) The School Association is to regulate terms of payment with the creditors, in order that the Conference may have a clear view of the liabilities it is to assume.

(c) On the basis of the voluntary offer of the Tabor College School Association, the Conference accepts its movable and immovable property, and obligates itself to satisfy all existing claims against the school assets.

(d) The Conference allows the mortgage against the property to stand, as a well-secured loan, until the possibility or need arises to pay

(e) Since during the last three years the Conference did not find it possible under prevailing circumstances to provide the school with the \$10,000 annual support that had been promised, as a consequence of which the school was unable to pay the interest on the loan from the mission endowment fund, the Conference (herewith) cancels the three years of interest in arrears. This reduces the debt by \$2,160.

(f) In order to cover partially the loan from the "aid society" at Newton, Kansas, the Conference lifts an offering among the delegates and visitors at the forenoon session (of the Conference).

(g) The other notes payable the Conference pays in accordance with the agreed terms of payment, from the annual income of the school.

IV. The support of the school

(a) The administration of the school shall attempt to make the school, as far as possible, self supporting.

(b) The Conference makes no levy for the support of the school, but expects from the churches that they will consider it an important mission endeavor of the Brotherhood, and support it in proportion to their ability and according to the advantage they derive from the institution.

(c) The support is to consist of free-will contributions of the churches:

- (1) Of systematic monthly offerings;
- (2) Of special gifts from well-to-do brethren and sisters;
- (3) Of bequests from friends of the school;
- (4) Of products in kind donated by the surrounding churches.

(d) To awaken and raise the interest in the school, to benefit student solicitation and to increase the income, a traveling secretary shall be engaged, who visits the churches in

the Southern and the Central (District) Conferences twice a year.

V. The nature of the school

(a) In character the school is a positively Christian institution of higher learning offering:

(1) Elementary as well as higher Bible study;

(2) General liberal arts training, as well as professional (technical) training within the bounds of the Mennonite Brethren Conference confession of faith.

(b) The curriculum includes:

(1) An elementary and a higher Bible course;

(2) The academy course;

(3) The junior college course.

Note: The committee is of the opinion that the curriculum can be expanded according to possibilities.

VI. The budget of the school

(a) In order to offer the above curriculum, and meet the current payments on the assumed debt, it will require a minimum income of \$3,000 from tuition, and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 support from the churches and other sources.

Note: The demands upon the churches will decrease in proportion to the increase of the income from tuition.

VII. The management of the school (a) For the current year (1933-34) the school proceeds on its present basis without interruption. (However) The school committee newly elected by this Conference replaces the present (T.C.) Board of Directors. GCY, 1933, pp. 41, 44.

1933

(d) The Conference elected the following nine members to constitute the Conference Board of Directors of Tabor College: H. S. Voth and S. L. Hodel to represent the Northern; D. L. Schellenberg and A. A. Schroeter the Pacific; J. F. Thiessen and H. E. Wiens the Central; and P. R. Lange, H. D.

Wiebe and John W. Warkentin the Southern Districts, and instructed this new Board of Directors to implement the referendum of the school issue in the local churches in all districts, to tabulate the returns, and if a two-thirds majority resulted, to proceed immediately with the assumption, organization and operation of Tabor College as a Conference institution. (The new Board of Directors of Tabor College organized itself with P. R. Lange, chairman, H. D. Wiebe assistant chairman, and J. K. Warkentin, secretary.)

(f) The Conference also decided to continue in the churches with the monthly offerings for the support of Tabor College. GCY, 1933, pp. 35- 44.

1934

(Note: The newly elected Conference Board of Directors of Tabor College reported to the churches on March 19, 1934, that the acceptance of Tabor College as an M.B. Conference school had carried by the required two-thirds majority vote of the Conference church membership voting. See printed report to the churches regarding the work of the school committee with reference to Tabor College, March 19, 1934).

1936

Note: After the Conference had gratefully accepted the first annual report by the Conference school committee and by the new president of Tabor College (GCY, 1936, pp. 40-49) since the school had operated as a Conference institution (The new Conference Board of Directors of Tabor College had closed the school for one year--May 30, 1934 to May 30, 1935 -- for reorganization and refinancing. The school was reopened with the fall semester, on September 9, 1935) the following resolutions were passed:

1936 -- Resolutions from the (T.C.) school committee

(a) That the Conference allow the loan to Tabor College from the Mission endowment

fund to continue with the provision that 4 percent interest be paid on it from the school treasury. That the payments on pledge-notes which the Tabor College School Association had transferred to the Conference, constitute the source of income from which to pay the interest.

(b) That the Conference appropriate \$10,000 annually, through offerings and gifts from the churches, which together with the income from tuition constitute and determine the amount of the school budget.

(c) That repairs on buildings and any expansions be sanctioned by means of gifts from private sources.

(d) That the rate of interest on the loan to Tabor College be reduced from 5 percent to 4 percent. GCY, 1936, pp. 49, 50.

1936 (Note: With the adoption of the 1936 Conference constitution, the size of the school committee was reduced from nine to five members with each district represented by one member, except the Southern which was given two members since the school is located there. GCY, 1936, p. 51.) (The following Brethren were voted into the school committee membership: P. R. Lange, J. K. Warkentin, Southern District; H. E. Wiens, Central; J. G. Wiens, Northern; and D. L. Schellenberg, Pacific. GCY, 1936, p. 51).

1939 -- Status, support, and field secretary of Tabor College

(a) That no changes be undertaken (at this time) in the structural status of Tabor College, and that the Bible department, the Junior College, and the Academy be retained, but that expansion of the entire school program be continued.

(b) That the monthly offerings from the churches be strengthened so that the appropriated sum of \$10,000 annually be on hand by September one of each year. GCY, 1939, p. 34.

(c) That the recommendation by the Southern District Conference be accepted, to have the Conference engage a field secretary to represent the various Conference activities (including Tabor College) when visiting the churches. GCY, 1939, pp. 34 and 55.

(d) That the interest in arrears on the loan from the endowment fund be canceled, and that the school not be required to pay interest (on the loan) in the future. GCY, 1949, p. 55.

1939 -- Statement of appreciation to Tabor College staff and administration

That the Conference convey the following statement of gratitude to the president and faculty of Tabor College: The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, in session at Corn, Oklahoma, would like to express herewith its most cordial gratitude to the administration and faculty of Tabor College for their sacrificial and unselfish service to our young people. This gratitude we desire to clothe not only in words, but also demonstrate by sending (the school) more students and contributions. GCY, 1939, p. 34.

1943 -- Tabor College to continue as a Conference school That Tabor College continue as a Conference school in full accordance with the advice received from the Committee of Reference and Counsel which reads: "Die Schule so zu gestalten, dass sie nach allen Seiten einen klaren Ton gibt." GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Vote of confidence

That we give the Board of Education and the administration of Tabor College our full vote of confidence in the light of the above recommendation as accepted by the Conference. GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Churches to continue the monthly offerings

That the churches continue with the monthly offerings with renewed efforts to contribute

\$10,000 annually for its financial support. GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Conference approval of the "1000 Friends Plan"

That the Conference approves the 1000 friends plan. Through this plan we find friends that will in a special way pray for Tabor College, speak a good word for Tabor College, and contribute (at least) \$10 annually for its financial support. GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Goodwill expressed towards Tabor College

That we express our good will towards Tabor College and pledge ourselves to pray for Tabor College sincerely and often during the coming years. GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Expression of appreciation

That we as a Conference give Brother A. E. Janzen, former president of Tabor College, a vote of appreciation for every effort he has put forth in the interest of Tabor College, and that we want to continue to pray for him in his new enterprise. GCY, 1943, p. 48.

1943 -- Agreeing on the number of candidates

That the Conference accept nominations as follows (for the educational committee): For Canada, two candidates, for the Central and Pacific districts, each two candidates, and for the Southern district, four candidates. GCY, 1943, p. 49.

1943 -- Expression of appreciation to Committee on Education

That the Conference express thanks and, appreciation to the Conference Committee on Education for the diligent and faithful work in the interest of Tabor College. GCY, 1943, p. 49.

1945 -- Promoting Tabor College

That the General Conference continue to build Tabor College in all worthy respects and especially in the direction of meeting the standards of accrediting agencies so that these (young people) in our churches

and communities interested in an accredited higher education may have the opportunity to attain such under the auspices of our Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 52.

1945 -- Financial Support for Tabor College
That the General Conference allow an adequate annual budget for the support of the educational program at Tabor College and that the following sources of income provide the amount of the budget as indicated:

Institutional income, including tuition fees, etc.	\$35,000
Church offerings	25,000
Thousand friends	25,000
Undetermined	<u>15,000</u>
	100,000

That the Southern and Central District Conferences furnish additional support toward the program of Tabor College to the extent to which the Northern District and the Pacific District Conferences furnish additional support for the Mennonite Brethren Bible College and the Pacific Bible Institute respectively. GCY, 1945, pp. 52, 53.

1945 -- Discontinuing Academy program
That the General Conference discontinue the support and control of the Academy program at Tabor College and leave the operation of the educational program on the secondary school level to local congregations and groups of congregations. GCY, 1945, p. 53.

1945 -- Enlargement of Educational Committee

That the (Conference) constitution, Article XV, Section 2, Educational Committee, be amended to read as follows:

"The Educational Committee is composed of six members with representation from each of the district conferences. Three members to be elected every three years. (Term 6 years) GCY, 1945, p. 53.

1945 -- Pacific Bible Institute

That the Pacific Bible Institute be recognized by the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, but that the administration and management remain under the jurisdiction of the Pacific District Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 57.

1945 -- Share in endowment fund

That (since) many members of the Pacific District Conference have contributed to the educational endowment fund and especially so since the opening of the Pacific Bible Institute, with the hope that in time this institution would be recognized by the General Conference ... that the institution share in the benefits from the (educational endowment) fund. GCY, 1945, p. 57.

1945 -- Coordination of the Conference educational program

That two representatives of the Pacific Bible Institute and two representatives of the Winnipeg Bible College meet at least once (a year) with the Tabor College Board for the purpose of drawing up plans for coordinating our conference educational program and present recommendations at the meeting of the next General Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 57.

1948 -- Jubilee Fund

Merger with Educational Fund.

(a) That the Jubilee Fund be merged with the (Gen. M. B.) conference Educational Fund. GCY, 1948, p. 59.

Corn Bible School.

(b) That the Corn, Oklahoma, Bible School be allowed \$200 per year as its share of the annual dividend. GCY, 1948, p. 59.

(c) Distribution. That the annual dividend of the Educational Fund be distributed among the three conference-recognized schools on the following basis: Tabor College 60%; Pacific Bible Institute 20%; M.B. Bible College, Winnipeg, 20%. GCY, 1948, p. 59.

1948 -- Four-year college

That vigorous steps be undertaken in the building of the school in the direction of meeting the standards of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for a four-year college. GCY, 1948, p. 75.

1948 -- Library

That immediate steps be taken in the direction of supplying the present need for library space by instructing the administration (a) to proceed in developing plans for additional library facilities, (b) to collect finances for the building of the Library Building Fund, and (c) begin with the construction of the library as soon as, in the opinion of the Board, acceptable plans have been produced and sufficient funds have been gathered. Attempts should be made to interest the Alumni Associations in assuming the responsibility for the providing of funds for this purpose. The field secretary likewise is instructed to accept special gifts for this fund. GCY, 1948, p. 75.

1948 -- Library amendment

That the Educational Committee first crystallize full plans for such building and determine the cost of such project. This plan and its cost are to be placed before the Committee of Reference and Counsel and the Board of Trustees who together with the Educational Committee determine the possibility and acceptance of the plan. GCY, 1948, p. 76.

1948 -- Seminary commission (a) That the Conference elect a commission to consider and study the practical aspect of an M.B. seminary. It was further moved that we elect a commission for this purpose in the manner our constitution prescribes for electing other committees. (b) That we elect two members from each district and consider the incoming Conference chairman a member of this commission. (See also seminary) GCY, 1948, p. 76.

1948 -- Duplication of curriculum, degrees, solicitation

(a) That in order to reduce to a minimum duplication by operating a number of Conference schools, the Conference provide meetings from time to time, called by the chairman of the Board of Education, in which each school has a minimum representation of one board member and one faculty member, for the purpose of coordinating the educational effort within the Conference.

(b) That the expenses involved to make such meetings possible, be paid by the General Conference (treasury). Expenses incurred by additional representatives are to be borne by the individual school being so represented. GCY, 1948, p. 77.

1948 -- Educational committee

That the Educational Committee be composed of six members with representation from each of the district conferences. Three of the members are to be elected for a term of six years at each regular convention of the Conference. GCY, 1948, p. 78.

1948 -- Liquidation of Tabor College note due the Board of Foreign Missions

That since the principal of the old note given by Tabor College to the Board of Foreign Missions (for a loan) no longer bears interest, the amount be written off from the books of the treasurer of the Board of Trustees, and that in consideration of the liquidation of this debt, Tabor College from year to year remit 50 % of the tuition of the missionary children of parents of our Conference who may be students at Tabor College, and admit such children of missionary parents in our Conference as students at half tuition. GCY, 1948, p. 60.

1951 -- Efforts towards accreditation of Tabor College That we thank our heavenly Father for the achievements recorded in our efforts toward accreditation, and that we continue to apply all the potentialities of the

Conference towards the achievement of a fully accredited four-year college. GCY, 1951, p. 30.

1951 -- Building program

That since the Lord has permitted the destruction of our music hall by fire, and since the administration building is in urgent need of repair ... the Educational Committee be granted the permission to solicit funds to meet such and other imperative needs. GCY, 1951, p. 30.

1951 -- Finances of Tabor College

(a) That we accept the following yearly budget for the operation of the school for the next interim of the Conference:

Instruction	\$64,870
Library	3,800
Plant operation and maint.	13,740
Investments	3,980
Administration (Including debt retirement)	<u>53,610</u>
	\$140,000

(b) That we allocate the burden for the income of such a budget, each group receiving such an allocation, making itself responsible for the income of the same:

Budget -- \$140,000

Institutional income	\$70,000
Non-institutional income*	<u>70,000</u>
Total	\$140,000

*Non-institutional income to be derived from:

Conference Educational	
Endowment Fund	\$2,500
Hillsboro main street	5,000
Faculty	2,500
Special gifts	8,500
Southern District Conf.	24,000
Central District Conf.	7,800
Pacific District Conf.	11,000
Northern District Conf.	6,000
K.M.B. Conference	<u>2,700</u>
Total	\$70,000

GCY, 1951, p. 30.

1951 -- Administration of Tabor College

(a) That we express a sincere vote of appreciation for the services rendered by Dr. P. E. Schellenberg during the past ten years and give God the glory for any progress and blessings which the school has enjoyed. (b) That we extend a full vote of confidence to Brother John N. C. Hiebert, to assume the responsibilities of the office of the president of Tabor College, beginning September 1, 1951, with an interim arrangement until the earliest possible return of Brother Hiebert (from India). GCY, 1951, p. 31.

1951 -- Co-ordination of schools within the Conference

That we continue to seek the best possible co-ordination between the schools now in operation and continue to foster a spirit of understanding and cooperation. GCY, 1951, p. 31.

1951 -- Coordinating committee

That the heads of each school plus the chairman of each board serve as a coordinating study and steering committee ...and that a meeting of them be called no later than the fall of 1951. GCY, 1951, p-101.

1951 -- Tuition at Tabor College

That tuition ...be raised ...to \$125.00 per semester ... and that students enrolled in Theology be allowed a discount of 50% on tuition. GCY, 1951, p. 31.

1951 -- Churches to raise their quota

That we encourage the churches to proceed diligently to raise their allotted quotas (so) that a deficit (in operations) need not occur again. GCY, 1951, p. 100.

1954 -- Unification of M.B. Conference Educational Program

That the recommendation of the Board of Education of Tabor College be accepted: (a) Gratitude to God. That we offer unto God a special prayer of gratitude for His keeping power manifested within the school

and for the continued blessings which have been evident in this work. GCY, 1954, p. 58 and 61.

(b) To John N. C. Hiebert. That we extend a vote of gratitude to our Brother and Sister J. N. C. Hiebert for their willingness to come and do all in their power in behalf of Christian education within our Conference and particularly for Tabor College, and may we also assure them of our continued prayerful remembrance. GCY, 1954, pp. 58 and 61.

(c) To L. J. Franz. That we extend a vote of gratitude to our Brother, Dr. L. J. Franz, for his willingness to be the man who would stand in the gap in times of great need and administer the affairs of our school in the spirit of sacrifice and devotion during the interim periods which have occurred. GCY, 1954, pp. 58 and 61.

(d) To F. C. Peters. That we extend to our new president, Brother Frank C. Peters, a vote of confidence and assure him of our prayerful support in the great task of leading our Conference school in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. GCY, 1954, pp. 58 and 61.

(e) To the Tabor College staff. That the Conference also extend a vote of deep appreciation to the entire staff of Tabor College and send them a special word of encouragement in the task which they are performing in our behalf, assuring them of our prayerful support. GCY, 1954, pp. 58 and 61.

(f) Accepting P. B. I. That we gratefully accept Pacific Bible Institute (at Fresno, California) as a General (M.B.) Conference school. GCY, 1954, pp. 59 and 62.

(g) Unified educational program. That the General Conference establish a unified educational program by which one board shall operate the schools of the Conference from one treasury, into which all contributions shall flow, and from which the schools shall be subsidized according to

a previously accepted budget. GCY, 1954, pp. 59 and 61.

Note: At this point Brother J. A. Toews, chairman of the Canadian M.B. Conference, presented a statement of clarification, read by Brother C. J. Rempel, secretary, in behalf of the Canadian Conference, as follows :

(a) That the Canadian delegation abstains from the discussion of the unification issue and that the matter be regulated as an area issue.

(b) That Canada through its delegation has consented to voluntary participation in the spiritual, moral and financial support of the General (M.B.) Conference educational program subject to a further review at the next Canadian Conference.

(c) That after the completion of the organizational pattern of the General Conference school program as effected by the USA area, provisional agreement be reached in areas which may affect the USA or Canadian area. GCY, 1954, p. 62.

(h) Size of new board. Taking the Canadian Conference position into consideration. That the board which shall govern the unified educational program shall consist of thirteen members with the districts represented in the following manner: Pacific District, four; Southern District, four; Central District, two; Canadian District, one; K.M.B. Conference, one; and one member at large. GCY, 1954, pp. 59 and 62.

(i) Location of our four-year Liberal Arts College. This issue (Recommendation No. 9), even after several attempts and amendments, failed to pass. GCY, 1954, pp. 59, 63, 137.

(j) Budget. That the new Board of Education be authorized to draw up a budget for the operation of a unified system and put it into effect with the consent of the Committee of Reference and Counsel. GCY, 1954, pp. 59, 63.

(k) Allocation. That we continue the principle of allocating portions of the budget to the various districts, except for Canada, to whom it be left to make contributions on a voluntary basis. GCY, 1954, pp. 59, 63.

(l) Building program. That the new Board be authorized to work progressively on a building program as it may be necessary to put our unified educational system into operation. GCY, 1954, pp. 59, 63.

(m) M.B. Bible College. That we continue to recognize the Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg as heretofore. GCY, 1954, 7P. 59, 63.

(n) Standards. That the Conference reaffirm the objectives and standards of conduct of our educational system as outlined in our Tabor College catalog (Objectives, pp. 12-13; Standards of Conduct, pp. 27-28, 1954) and assure the administration of our support in the implementation of the same. GCY, 1954, pp. 59, 63.

Note: The tabled issue, tabled motion No. 9, was now voted on again, and again failed to pass. Refer to (i) above. GCY, 1954, pp. 63, 137.

1954 -- Motion to proceed with election of new Board of Education

That because we have come to a point beyond which we do not at this time have sufficient light as to the further will of God in our program of education, we now table this recommendation (No. 9) until we receive further direction from God, and at this time proceed to elect the new board of education with instructions to direct our educational program under the leading of the Lord. They are charged to come to the churches of the Conference for help or advice. GCY, 1954, p. 137.

That we follow the usual principle of electing those from each area on the basis of one half having the highest for six years, the other half for three years, and the brother for Canada for three years. GCY, 1954, p.

137. 1954 -- Vote of thanks to former board

of education That we give the nine brethren of the former Board of Education a standing vote of thanks for their faithful service. The whole Conference (delegation and guests) stood. GCY, 1954, p. 137.

1954 -- Retiring board asked to aid if called on

That the retiring board members be willing to stand by whenever called upon. GCY, 1954, p. 138.

1957 -- Gratitude, prayer and provisional program for Christian education

(a) That we as a Conference thank God for the privilege we enjoy to build our institutions and train our youth in the admonition and fear of the Lord and in keeping with our confession of faith. (b) That we as a Conference pledge ourselves anew to pray more, even than heretofore, for the program of Christian education especially during this time of reorganization.

(c) That the Conference send warm greetings and an appropriate word of encouragement to the faculty of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (Fresno), Tabor College, (Hillsboro), Mennonite Brethren Bible College (Winnipeg), and Pacific Bible Institute and Junior College (Fresno).

(d) That until the commission to be established at this Conference for the purpose of defining the North and South relationship has completed its assignment relative to education, we continue to operate our institutions as at present. GCY, 1957, pp. 85, 86.

1957 -- Transfer of assets from the Conference to Tabor College Corporation That the Conference instruct its Board of Trustees to transfer the physical assets of Tabor to the Tabor College Corporation. GCY, 1957, pp. 85, 86.

1957 -- Statement of greetings to M.B. Conference schools

That, the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North

America in session at Yarrow, B.C., Canada, at its 47th convention extends warm Christian greetings to Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Tabor College, Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Pacific Bible Institute and Junior College as an expression of sincere appreciation for their faithful ministry in Christian higher education.

Acknowledgement (is) given and emphasis (is) made upon the vital role our institutions of learning are playing in supplying qualified, dedicated workers called of God to the various fields of ministry entrusted to our brotherhood. Appreciation (is) expressed for the positive Christian influence our schools are exerting on the young people of our churches who enter secular fields of endeavor.

May God continue to direct and prosper your efforts as you "... earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3b). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

The Conference (through the resolutions committee, John E. Friesen, John Pankratz, Isaac Tiessen). GCY, 1957, p. 120.

1960 -- Tabor College U.S. area school
The General Conference Board of Reference and Counsel interprets the action taken by the General Conference in session at Yarrow B.C., in October, 1957, and recorded on pages 85 and 86 of the Conference Year Book, as constituting Tabor College as a United States area school. GCY, 1960, p. 150.

1960 -- Transfer of U.S. Educational Endowment Fund to the Board of Education of the U.S. Area

That in view of the action taken by the General Conference at this session concerning the activity and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees in connection with

the solicitation and handling of permanent funds, that is, to discontinue activity in the educational endowment field; and in order to make possible the fullest use of all available resources for support of the educational program such as accreditation and financing of future buildings; and to continue the delineation and assignment of specific areas of responsibility to the various Boards; be it resolved: That the Board of Trustees of the General Conference be authorized and instructed to transfer to the U.S. Board of Education all U.S. educational endowment funds as soon as practical and that the U.S. Board of Education be made responsible for the gathering and the management of all permanent funds for educational purposes as well as the administration of the earnings of such funds. GCY, 1960, pp. 150, 151.

1960 -- Re: theological education on the seminary level

That should no unity tie achieved on this (seminary) question at the (1960) General Conference, then the Canadian Conference would ask the General Conference to withdraw the decision reached at Yarrow, B.C. in 1957 (regarding postponement of expansion), which affected both area conferences. GCY, 1957, p. 12, item 3. However, we urge that the institutions in both area conferences be careful in their extension work, so that the cause of establishing a General Conference seminary be not hindered. Should the Lord lead the General Conference in the future to establish a seminary satisfactory to the entire General Conference, the Canadian Conference would be pleased. GCY, 1960, p. 151.

1960 -- The Seminary resolution as presented by the Board of Reference and Counsel

That in view of the instructions of the General Conference in session at Yarrow in 1957 to continue to study the matter of

unification in the area of higher theological training and in view of the questions from the Canadian Conference and recommendation from the United States Conference while the respective conferences were in session in 1960, and in view of the assignment of the General Conference and the Committee of Reference and Counsel ... the following (be adopted):

(a) That the felt need for and desirability of a unified area seminary program as expressed by the U.S. and Canadian Conferences calls for the adoption of a definite statement to that effect from the General Conference, thus placing further responsibility upon the entire brotherhood.

(b) That the rapid growth of indigenous churches on other continents and their organization into conferences requires that their present and future needs for trained leadership must of necessity lead to their inclusion in our planning for a unified seminary program.

(c) That the different degrees of readiness for the implementation of such program make it advisable to postpone final action on this issue at this time, and that in the meantime the theological training of our youth be continued on an area basis.

(d) That the General Conference instruct the Board of Reference and Counsel to appoint a study commission of three members to carry out a research project on all areas pertaining to the founding and operating of a Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary on an international basis.

(e) That the findings of this study commission be reported to the United States and Canadian Conferences in session in 1961. GCY, 1960, pp. 151, 152.

1963 -- Seminary Commission report accepted

(a) That our Conference recognize the need for an adequate seminary training program in our brotherhood. (b) That because of the differing degrees of readiness of our area

conferences to assume the responsibility for such a program of higher theological training in the establishment of a united seminary for the entire brotherhood, this need for the present be met by our existing schools on area level with an openness for the Lord's direction toward a unified seminary program in the future. (c) That the Conference, for the immediate present, encourage the provision of periodic study conferences in the form of seminars for the benefit of the faculties of our theological schools and other leading brethren from our constituencies for the purpose of spiritual fellowship and theological studies to strengthen our unity in faith and doctrine. (d) That a committee of three, one member appointed from the Board of Reference and Counsel and one member from each of our area conference theological schools, be charged with the responsibility for the implementation of such study conferences. (e) That the Board of Reference and Counsel of the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches be charged to carefully watch any future developments which may indicate that further consideration toward unification of our seminary training programs would be profitable and initiate such consideration at the opportune time. GCY, 1963, pp. 37, 38.

1963 -- Educational Endowment Fund distribution to Canadian Conference and U.S. Conference

(That the) resolution (regarding the) disposition of the Educational Endowment Fund (arrived at by) the Board of Trustees and the Board of Reference and Counsel in combined session, motivated by a spirit of unity and understanding (be) accepted (viz.) that the balance of monies in the Education Fund, i.e., the sum of ~78,499.46, be allocated to the Canadian Conference and the U.S. Conference on the following basis:

(a) \$60,000.00 to be credited to a Canadian

Conference Trust Fund. (b) \$18,499.46 to be credited to a U.S. Conference Trust Fund. GCY, 1963, p. 124.

ELDERS

1888 -- Reprimanding of elders

That in reply to the question, should an elder turn over the leadership to a minister when dealing about his own case, or rather call in another elder: Decided that an elder should make amends for his errors like any other brother. However, if an elder is molested with accusations, and entanglements result there from, then another elder should be called in to examine the accusations and see whether they merit consideration, or to judge whether the revolting brethren are to be reprimanded according to 1 Tim. 5:19, 20. GCY, 1888, p. 70.

1951 -- Board of Elders

That the recommendation presented by the Committee of Reference and Counsel to create a "Board of Elders" be referred by the Conference to the churches of the districts and provinces for study and consideration. GCY, 1951, pp. 130-133.

1954 -- Board of Elders (proposed)

That in view of the reaction of all the District Conferences to Document No. 3, "Board of Elders" as presented by the Committee of Reference and Counsel, (Gen. Conference Yearbook, 1951, pp. 130-133) ... the Conference ordered a revision of said document transferring the duties assigned in the document to the Board of Elders to the Committee of Reference and Counsel. GCY, 1954, p. 20.

ELECTIONS, CONFERENCE

1954 -- Election of candidates

That each district may make its own nominations with the understanding that additional nominations and the (candidates

for) members at large be made from the floor. GCY, 1954, pp. 33, 34.

1963 -- Nomination procedure

That the U.S. and Canadian Conferences serve as a nominating committee and present two nominees for every vacancy in their particular area, Conference officers and members at large excepted. GCY, 1963, p. 41.

EVANGELISTS

1879 -- Conference evangelist

That the Conference favors the engagement of a Conference evangelist; votes to begin a fund for evangelization at home and in foreign missions; designates the offering taken at the festival meal to be the initial contribution to the evangelization fund; and chooses Elder Abraham Schellenberg to be Conference evangelist to serve the churches in Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, and Minnesota. GCY, 1879, p. 3.

1883 -- Traveling evangelists

That some traveling evangelists be appointed for the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Manitoba. The remuneration to be \$30.00 per month. These evangelists are to publish their reports in a small church paper to be established for this purpose. GCY, 1883, p. 8-12.

1884 -- Full-time paid evangelists

That the Conference is of the opinion that a monthly evangelization service is not adequate. Resolved, to appropriate from the Conference treasury a \$400 annual salary, and to engage the evangelists for the entire year. (A local church may pay part of the salary if a major part of the work is done there.) GCY, 1884, p. 23.

1945 -- Evangelists at large

That the General Conference is happy when God gives her brethren whom He has set to be evangelists and who, trusting in God, give their full time to evangelization. But, the placing of such brethren is a matter of

the local church or of the district conference and not of the General Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 71.

EXCOMMUNICATION

1878 -- Relation to excommunicated members

That in case a brother is excommunicated according to I Cor. 5: 11, even the wife should have nothing to do with him. This, however, has no reference to material eating or to marital relations. GCY, 1878.

1880 -- Excommunication of members

That in case a brother leaves the church and lives in sin, he is considered excommunicated. If the brother withdraws because of serious conditions within the church, these should be investigated and removed so that proper relationship may be reestablished. GCY, 1880, p. 8.

1881 -- Excommunication of members

That it be decided to excommunicate chiefly for the purpose of leading the brother to conviction and repentance. Each case should be handled carefully and individually so as to win the brother for Christ and the church. GCY, 1881, p. 12.

1885 -- Withdrawal from excommunicated members

That relative to excommunication it was advised to abide by the Conference resolution of 1881, and that we withdraw from such persons only as directed by the Word of God. GCY, 1885, p. 36.

1895 -- Relation to excommunicated members

That it be decided to abide by a former (1878) Conference resolution which states that it is not to be understood that we should have nothing to do with these, nor eat with them, except in Christian fellowship such as the eating before the Lord's Supper and church fellowship. GCY, 1895, p. 176.

1943 -- Excommunication for immorality (See immorality)

FASTING

1886 -- Easting endorsed

That the Conference unanimously endorses fasting preparatory to all important official actions such as ordinations of ministers and deacons, etc. GCY, 1886, p. 44.

GENERAL WELFARE, RELIEF, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS (See also MCC end Non-Resistance)

1884 -- The matter of relief brought to the Conference Floor

(The Conference took note that there was need for material aid among impoverished immigrants in Russia desiring to migrate to America; also of the recommendation that relief be made a matter of the entire Conference. But action in this respect was left to the individual churches.) GCY, 1884, p. 26.

1894 -- Church aid to new settlements

That requests by newly settling groups asking aid for building churches be directed to their mother congregations within the Conference. GCY, 1894, p. 167.

1900 -- Dispensing of relief funds (That the Conference approve the following dispensed relief funds that were gathered as private gifts and special offerings): for famine in India, \$3,120.50; Armenia, \$127.78; miscellaneous needs, \$16.00; for oppressed Christians, \$392.44. GCY, 1900, pp. 224, 225.

1901 -- Relief offerings

That also during the year (1901) ... (the churches) gather (gifts) on Thanksgiving Day for oppressed children of God and send the offerings to J. F. Harms (then Missions treasurer), Medford, Oklahoma. GCY, 1901, p. 247.

1902 -- Offerings for relief

That again this year an offering for oppressed children of God be gathered and

sent to J. F. Harms, Medford, Oklahoma. GCY, 1902, p. 268.

1903 -- Offering for relief

That again an offering be gathered (in the churches) for oppressed children of God and forwarded as heretofore. GCY, 1903, p. 294.

1904 -- Offering for relief

That also in the future we gather funds on Thanksgiving Day for oppressed children of God and forward them to J. F. Harms (who in turn remits them to the needy). GCY, 1904, p. 319.

1905 -- Thanksgiving offering

(a) That because the 1904 relief offering is still in the treasury, since the need (for relief) abroad has decreased ... but since there are many impoverished people in America ... many of them in California, to send the 1904 Thanksgiving Day offering (\$406.85) to the Brethren P. A. Dyck and P. Wohlgemuth, Los Angeles, to be distributed conscientiously among the poor Russians, and that these brethren report about it later in the *Zionsbote*. (b) To again gather a Thanksgiving offering (in 1905) and to designate one half of it for relief in India, and the other half for Christian literature for Russian people in America. GCY, 1905, pp. 339, 340.

1906-1920

Note: During the period from 1906 to 1920, with no areas of major distress existing, the Conference administered contributions for relief as part of the assignment of the Board of Missions. The Thanksgiving offerings were continued, but were directed more towards home missions in the cities, and towards the distribution of Christian literature.

1921 -- Relief funds for Russia's post-war distressed

That we (the Conference) recommend to our churches, through the respective delegates, to gather as many funds as possible for relief (material aid) in famine areas of

Russia, and that these funds be sent to the Missions treasurer, J. W. Wiens, Hillsboro, who in turn will forward them to Russia through the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The Conference delegation expresses the sentiment that the monthly offerings should amount to \$1.00 or more per church member. GCY, 1921, pp. 49,50.

1921 -- Aid for colonization

That we leave to the respective committee (MCC) the further development of the matter of colonizing refugee Mennonites from Russia, but that we actively assist the committee when aid for colonizing is appealed for. GCY, 1921, p. 50.

1924 -- Relief and Welfare committee established

That a committee of seven brethren be elected, which is to organize itself, and represent our Conference for a term of three years, in the (overall) general committee of Mennonites for relief and colonization. (The following were elected: P. C. Hiebert, H. H. Flaming, J. W. Wiens, Southern; P. H. Balzer, Central; H. A. Neufeld, John B. Dyck, Northern; and D. C. Eitzen, Pacific districts.) GCY, 1924, p. 60.

1924 -- Assignment to Public Relations committee

That the report (on non-resistance) be gratefully received and that the (public relations) committee (of three members) continue, and remain alert (on this matter) and carry on its work in order to be of assistance in case a need arises. GCY, 1924, p. 64.

Note: the public relations committee was merged with the General Welfare committee in 1966.

1927 -- First report by the Relief and General Welfare committee as such, and Conference resolution

That the report be accepted and that (a) Since the distress among the newly immigrated Mennonites in Canada will

apparently again be severe during the ensuing winter ... that all churches within the Conference be cordially called upon to continue active participation in the relief (material aid) for Canada, in that they again gather and implement shipments of clothing and sending of relief funds. (b) That all moneys and gifts be sent through a central (treasury) as much as possible, and that where this is not feasible, to forward them promptly to the (Relief and Welfare) committee. (c) That our brethren in Canada create a central (office) to which all needs as well as all receipts of contributions are reported, and that this central office in Canada regularly report to the Committee in the U.S.A. on the relief situation in every respect. (d) That the committee (of seven) be again charged with this service for another three years. GCY, 1927, pp. 60, 61.

1930 -- A word of gratitude to the President and people of Germany

(a) That the Conference forward a word of gratitude to the President and the people of Germany for the noble assistance extended to our brethren (Mennonites) (during the years of their migration from Europe to the western hemisphere) (b) That the material aid service be continued. (c) That in the future, we assume a somewhat larger share of contributions for the immigrated sick in Canada, in the U.S.A., and for the Mennonites who (for the time being) remained in Southampton. (d) To thank the committee for its service and to elect it for another three years. GCY, 1930, pp. 58, 59.

1933 -- Projection of our relief ministry

(a) That we continue to do good, and not grow weary (faint), for in due season we shall reap without end. (b) That we contemplate the breaking of the spiritual bread to our people in South America as soon as possible. (c) That a visit by a ministerial brother from our Conference would not only be very welcome, but would in various respects also

bring about blessings. (d) That in the larger relief movements we continue to collaborate with the various other confessions of Mennonites. (e) That we do not grow slack in the earnest intercession in behalf of our suffering brethren in the faith who are still being persecuted and oppressed in Russia, or are still languishing in exile. (f) That we remind ourselves of the great need for clothing, especially in the British Northwest, where so many poor (of the household of faith) are now settling. (g) That we transmit greetings and our gratitude to Brother Benjamin H. Unruh and his fellow-workers for their exerting endeavors in the interests of our people. (h) That we as Conference send greetings to our people in Paraguay, Brazil, and Harbin (China). (i) That we cordially thank all workers in the various departments of relief work for their unselfish service. GCY, 1933, pp. 57, 58.

1933 -- Support to J. F. Harms for relief service

That in view of Brother J. F. Harms' gradual withdrawal from the publication ministry, and his occupation with Russian relief, we recommend to the publishers committee that he be granted partial support from the Publishing House. GCY, 1933, p. 58.

1936 -- General relief resolutions

(a) 1. That we thank our Heavenly Father for the numerous spiritual and temporal advantages that we enjoy so abundantly in the U.S.A. and Canada. 2. That we continue to remember the poor according to the example of the Apostles, cited in Gal. 2:10, "Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do." 3. That in the larger relief projects we continue to collaborate with the other confessions of Mennonites. 4. That our Conference declare itself willing to contribute its share towards the support of Brother B. H. Unruh, the general secretary of the international relief. 5. That

we cordially thank the aged Brother J. F. Harms for his faithful service in the forwarding of personal relief contributions to Russia, and that for the next three years we allow him a weekly pension of \$5.00, to be paid equally from the relief treasury and

That we continue humbly grateful to our kind heavenly Father for the many blessings that we have enjoyed in the past as well as for the privileges that we enjoy today, namely, to live and teach what we believe to be the true will of God as expressed in His precious Word in accord with our stand as an historic peace church under the protection of our country and its constitution. GCY, 1943, p. 67.

the publishing house. GCY, 1936, p. 58.

1936 -- Reserve fund to be continued

That we continue to maintain a reserve fund of \$5,000 to meet emergencies. GCY, 1936, p. 58.

1936 -- Acquisition of land for the Paraguay colony

That we approve MCC's plan regarding the purchase of land for the Brethren in Paraguay. GCY, 1936, p. 58.

1936 -- Paraguay Visit

That the Conference implement the 1933 General Conference resolution as soon as practically feasible to bring the Brethren in Paraguay spiritual and temporal help, by sending to them a suitable brother. There are between 1,500 and 2,000 of our Brethren, who came of great tribulation, and have now lived for five years as pioneers under difficult circumstances. GCY, 1936, p. 59.

1936 -- Canada aid

That we recommend that all churches of the Conference gather a special offering during the month of January of 1937, for those of our household of faith in Canada, where the breadwinners have deceased or have become incapable through illness to pay their debts,

or find themselves in other very critical circumstances. This is in compliance with a resolution of the world congress in Holland. GCY, 1936, p. 59.

1936 -- South America visit by P. C. Hiebert

(a) That the compensation and traveling costs for the visit of a brother to South America be covered by special gifts and offerings from the churches. (b) That the compensation for making the trip to south America be \$150. Should the visit require over three months, the amount be increased in proportion. (c) That Brother P. C. Hiebert be asked to make the visit and to do this in 1937. GCY, 1936, p. 59.

1936 -- Relief offerings

(a) That in all churches of the Conference a monthly offering be gathered for relief. (b) That the brethren who have been assigned to collect relief funds in California, be asked to continue this service with aid of the (Conference) relief committee. (c) That the (relief) committee be reimbursed for their extra expenses. GCY, 1936, p. 59.

1936 -- Greeting to Mrs. Mumaw

That the Conference send greetings to the widow of Levi Mumaw, Scottdale, Pa., with Rom. 8:28 since Rev. Mumaw served many years and had done much in relief work before his decease. GCY, 1936, p. 60.

1936 -- Railroad passes

That the Conference express its appreciation to the railroads for their accommodation in regard to providing travel opportunities to the Conference, and in cases also granting passes to delegates and Conference workers. GCY, 1936, p. 60.

1939 -- Reaffirmation of our relief participation

(a) That, as heretofore, we continue to allow the Mennonite Board of Colonization \$50.00 per month for the support of the sick and other suffering (people). (b) That we want to continue to assist by way of providing funds to cover uncollectible (immigrant) travel

debts. (c) That we desire to continue to

(See patriotism)

participate in the work of MCC, and collaborate and share in dispatching representatives to Europe, who look for valid relief opportunities, and who initiate the necessary measures for material aid. (d) That we continue to contribute a modest share towards the support of Brother Benjamin H. Unruh, Germany, representing the Mennonites. (e) That we continue to share in the support of the needy in Brazil and Paraguay. (f) That we renew the 1936 Conference resolution to support Brother J. F. Harms in the amount of \$5.00 weekly. (g) That we continue the monthly relief offerings in all churches. (h) That we retain the direct aid (personal gifts) to (people in distress in) Russia. GCY, 1939, p. 48.

1943 -- Gratitude as an historic peace church

1943 -- Loyalty to our country

(a) That we continue to support the work of relief in the various areas where want and suffering exist as the result of the war, irrespective of religion and race.

(b) That we continue the monthly contribution of \$50 towards the travel debt of Canadian immigrants that have no prospect of ever being able to pay themselves, plus 3 least one additional offering to assist our brethren in their special effort to clear debts.

(c) That we continue the payment of a monthly pension gift to Rev. J. F. Harms, in the sum of \$10.00.

(d) That we continue to prepare and send clothing to the places where need and suffering is great. GCY, 1943, pp. 68, 69.

(e) That we approve the action of several district conferences and of the Committee on General Welfare and Public Relations to employ a brother to give special care to the spiritual and material welfare of all our drafted men, and to assist our churches with counsel and aid when and where help is needed. GCY, 1943, p. 69.

1943 -- United relief participation

That we approve the effort of war sufferers relief by our committee as carried on in the past, and also the preparation for a world-wide relief action as soon as the war permits along the lines now planned by the Mennonite Central Committee. GCY, 1943, p. 67.

1943 -- Approval of M.C.C. endeavors
That we commend and approve the action of the Mennonite Central Committee for ever keeping in close touch with Selective Service and the government at Washington so as to act at all times fully in accord with orders, and avoiding anything in handling the Civilian Public Service work that does not have official sanction and approval. GCY, 1943, p. 67.

1943 -- Management of C.P.S. Camps
That we approve the management of our Civilian Public Service camps and also the several forms of detached service assignments such as rehabilitation work in mental hospitals, needed dairy farm work, the several health and rehabilitation projects in Florida and Puerto Rico, and also the continued aid lent to our brethren in South America. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Educational program in C.P.S. Camps

That we approve the educational program in our camps whose aim is to ground the young men in their faith, to teach them to live together in Christian charity with such as hold different views on many minor points, to learn various skills such as first aid, to develop stability of character, to encourage true piety and a useful life in the fear and service of God. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Spiritual nurture for drafted men
That we extend the arrangements made to provide spiritual nurture for all drafted men. This provision is to include all the men who are stationed in Mennonite camps or in detached service under Mennonite supervision. That special efforts

be made to reach the men of our household

That we continue the support of Civilian Public Service financially, in our prayers, and in personal visits of ministers. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

of faith, that is, members of the Mennonite Brethren Church, including those doing Civilian Public Service of national importance and also those who have been led to accept service under the military. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Contributions to camps and detached service

That our churches continue to contribute their share of the cost of operating the camps and caring for men in detached service ... which requires a contribution of a sum equal to that produced by a contribution of 50 cents per member per month.... GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Provision for dependents, and prayer for strength to witness

That those of us who were permitted to remain at home acknowledge our Christian responsibility in behalf of those that had to follow the call away from their home and their dear ones: (a) by providing that none of the dependents of those in camps suffer want, (b) by praying in a special way for these young men who stand in the forefront as witnesses for the faith of our fathers. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Field man to look after welfare of drafted men, and counsel churches

1943 -- Pastors to send information about young men called from their churches

That each pastor send in all possible information about any young men who have been called from their church into the country's service. The committee (of general welfare) volunteers to furnish special information blanks. GCY, 1943, p. 69.

1943 -- Resolutions assuring our continued support

1943 -- South American assignment to A. E. Janzen

That we approve the sending of our Brother A. E. Janzen to South America (under MCC auspices) for the purpose of strengthening and helping the brethren spiritually, socially, educationally and materially. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Buying non-war bonds

That we make known to the world our peace attitude in the matter of finance in subscribing for the special non-war bonds now offered by the national government. GCY, 1943, p. 68.

1943 -- Citizen loyalty to our country

That we admonish one another to be true and loyal citizens of this our dear country and that we do everything that we can to help our country, materially, socially and spiritually as the Lord gives us strength and light.

1945 -- Continue relief work through MCC

That we continue to do relief work through MCC in the several areas of the world among all men, with emphasis on those of the "household of faith." GCY, 1945, pp. 39, 40.

1945 -- Aid to displaced Mennonites

That we pledge ourselves to support the movement to find a home for needy, displaced Mennonites from war-stricken areas of Europe. GCY, 1945, p. 40

1945 -- Spiritual ministry

That we as M.B. Conference feel it our obligation to break the Bread of Life as well as the natural bread to the Mennonites in war-stricken areas by sending an experienced and established brother to Europe for a period of six months or longer. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 -- Civilian Public Service support

1945 -- Influence against peace-time conscription

That we ask our brethren of the Public Relations Committee, to lead us in exercising proper influence against peace-

time conscription of our young men, but that in case of its inevitable enactment, we favor asking for special provisions of service in a non-military capacity. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

That we continue our relief activities, including gifts of money, gifts in the form of canned food, gifts in the form of clothing, gifts in the form of praying, consecrated brethren and sisters as the Lord may lead. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

1945 -- Full-time brother to further relief and CPS

That we authorize the employment of a brother to devote his time and energy to furthering the various interests of relief and Civilian Public Service. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 -- Thanks to the welfare committee
That we indicate our thankfulness to these brethren by a standing vote. (The delegation then rose to show its thanks and sang a stanza of the song "Halt mich treu.") GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1946 -- In favor of a leper colony
That we favor the setting up and administering of a leper colony in Paraguay, under the auspices of the MCC, as a token of recognition to that nation for the admission of our brethren when in need. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 -- Institution for mentally ill
(See rehabilitation) GCY, 1945, p. 47.

1945 -- Aid to Bethesda
That the General Conference agree to grant "Bethesda" (mental) institution the sum of \$500 to aid in its worthy undertaking. GCY, 1945, p. 41.

1945 -- Support to (CPS) camps
That our churches continue to contribute their share of the cost of operating the camps and for the men in detached service by a contribution of 50 cents per member per month. GCY, 1945, p. 41.

1945 -- Travel debt support
That we continue the monthly contribution of \$50.00 toward the Canadian immigrant

travel debt of persons that have no prospect of ever being able to pay themselves. GCY, 1945, p. 41.

1945 -- Observance of peace Sunday
That we continue to observe the Sunday before National Armistice Day as special peace Sunday. GCY, 1945, p. 41. **1945** -- Loans to men in Government service
That only the district conferences (not individuals) may borrow money for the rehabilitation of its returning servicemen from the Loan Treasury of the Board of Trustees of the General Conference and (that it) is security for it (the loan). The lending of the money to its returning servicemen is a matter of the district conference. GCY, 1945, p. 71.

1945 -- Prayer for all men in Government service

That the M.B. Conference at the session convening at Dinuba, California, from November 25 to 29, 1945, express to all young men in service from the families of our Conference, whether in the C. O. camps or in the active service, our sympathy and remembrance in our prayers. Our wish and prayer goes out to them that the Lord may find the lost and we may all be ready at the hour of His coming. GCY, 1945, p. 69.

1948 -- Relief activity to be continued

1948 -- Resettlement and colonization program
That we agree to support the resettlement and colonization program as it is possible and practical towards Paraguay, Canada, the United States, or to any other country where our less fortunate brethren may be offered an opportunity to establish a home, earn their own livelihood, and live a life of liberty that assures freedom to worship and serve God and to educate the children in the faith of the Bible and that of our fathers. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

1948 -- Spiritual ministry among refugees
That we again authorize the committee to send out one or two families or brethren for the express purpose of spiritual gospel

ministry among the refugees and brethren. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

1948 -- Support to ministerial brethren in South America

That since the spiritual need in the South America colonies is so great and the means of a livelihood for the ministers of the Gospel limited ...the Conference authorize the Committee of General Welfare and Public Relations to give partial support to some ministers when needed. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

1948 -- Monthly offerings

That we continue the practice of lifting one offering monthly for relief and rehabilitation, especially in the light of the terrific needs now developing in Korea, India, and China, plus the continued need which must be rendered to our brethren in South America. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Own Mennonite Brethren program That we plan to direct our own Mennonite Brethren program in the effort to assist our brethren and to advance those principles of faith which we hold to be Biblical and essential but that we continue to cooperate with the Mennonite Central Committee in relief areas where united effort is advantageous and necessary. The principal forms of such a united work appear in the general relief of needy sufferers in the countries of the world, the gathering of flour and grain, the canning of meats, the contribution of clothing, the preparation and contribution of Christmas bundles, and the over-all direction of the relief and resettlement programs. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Support of our workers who serve in South America That we support our Brother J. A. Toews and successors in their South America ministry to our brethren and others by fervent prayers and contributions. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Continued spiritual ministry in connection with relief

That the Committee of General Welfare and Public Relations be encouraged to continue to provide for the spiritual ministry in connection with its efforts to relieve physical suffering, similarly to what it did during the past years among the colonies in South America, Europe, and other areas where challenging opportunities present themselves. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Subsidy to ministers in Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay

That we continue to subsidize the minister brethren in the Paraguay, Brazil, and Uruguay colonies so as to allow them time and strength for evangelistic work and for shepherding their flocks. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Gratitude to God and rulers of countries

That we prove ourselves sincerely grateful to our God and to the rulers of our countries for the considerate provisions made for conscientious objectors to war, which permits them to remain true to the faith of their fathers and abstain from participation in war and all acts of violence, and at the same time provides an open door for an honorable legal fulfilling of the obligation of loyal citizens in obedience to the government by, "doing work that contributes to the maintenance of the national health, safety and interest." We urge all members of our Conference to avail themselves of this opportunity to serve. GCY, 1951, p. 71.

1951 -- Spiritual guidance by pastors and the Committee

That the pastors of the churches together with the Committee of General Welfare and Public Relations assume the responsibility to provide ways and means for spiritual guidance and pastoral care of all young men of our Mennonite Brethren constituency called into the service of the country by the government. GCY, 1951, p. 72.

1951 -- Ministers to lay more emphasis on peace

That the Conference encourage and instruct all its ministers and teachers to lay more emphasis on education for peace, as a much needed testimony to a war-torn and war-weary world. GCY, 1951, p. 72.

1951 -- Voluntary service

(a) That we (the Conference) continue to develop the area of voluntary service which provides opportunity of Christian service to younger people who feel the urge of making a contribution to the cause of evangelistic as well as applied Christianity, even though they are not led to give a life to full-time Christian work. (b) (The MCC voluntary service receives 825.00 per month for each member of the M.B. Church who enters its service. Our own M.B. voluntary service projects are to be kept self-supporting as much as possible). GCY, 1951, p. 72, and GCY, 1948, p. 68 and pp. 103, 104.

1951 -- Mennonite World Conference (a) That we favor representation at the next Mennonite World Conference to be held in Switzerland in the summer of 1952. (b) That the General Conference agrees to participate in the Mennonite World Conference and that the district conferences send the brethren whom they appoint for this purpose. GCY, 1951, p. 72.

1954 -- Serving needy people

That we serve the needy people of the world, beginning with those belonging to our household of faith and present a united effort in the Name of Christ and faithfully follow up our charge to give material support and spiritual guidance to the growing churches of South America; and also support the ministering brethren from amidst the churches in Paraguay, Brazil, and Uruguay and also the teachers in the Bible school. GCY, 1954, p. 111.

1954 -- Presenting a witness for peace

That in loyalty to Christ and love for fellowmen, we present a strong uncompromising witness for peace by a

clear personal testimony, by liberal giving, and if need be, by joyful sacrifice of property, position, conveniences, and suffering for our faith and to continue the Conference established custom of using the Sunday nearest to Armistice Day as peace Sunday. GCY, 1954, p. 114.

1954 -- Reaffirmation of spiritual and physical relief service

(a) That in conjunction with MCC (we) continue to promote a world-wide program in behalf of the needy by liberal contributions of funds and personnel. (b) That we continue to support established North American brethren who are delegated to aid the younger sister churches in South America in their effort of self-edification, the winning of souls, and achieving effective organizations. (c) That we continue to make provisions for the spiritual, moral and, if need be, physical support of the young people called into the service by the government. (d) That we continue the established custom of lifting one Sunday morning offering for relief each month. GCY, 1954, p. 114.

1954 -- Relief in connection with M.B. Mission enterprises

That if opportunity and need present themselves, we render our relief in connection with our missionary enterprises. GCY, 1954, p. 114.

1954 -- United Brotherhood projects

That we carry on these projects as one united Brotherhood regardless of national boundaries and local or personal ambitions. GCY, 1954, p. 114.

1957 -- General Welfare responsibilities and Conference support

That in view of the great responsibilities for the relief needs in the various fields of the world which the Conference places upon the Welfare Board, the need for much wisdom and grace is recognized, and the Conference's support in prayer, (as well as) to pray for an open door to bring help to

our brotherhood in Russia. GCY, 1957, p. 103.

1957 -- Peace Sunday near Armistice day
That we continue the established custom of observing the Sunday nearest to Armistice day as peace Sunday. GCY, 1957, p. 103.

1957 -- Generous contributions encouraged
That we encourage the churches, as the Bible has taught us, to contribute generously to the cause of helping suffering humanity (Gal. 6: 10). That if the budget system is accepted (within our churches), this cause find its proper place. The churches may designate their contributions either for the support of assistance to our brotherhood in South America, to the relief on M. B. mission fields, or toward the service to other needy humanity. GCY, 1957, p. 103.

1957 -- Inviting delegates from other countries to the 1960 Centennial
(a) That area Conference invite one or more delegates from the South American M.B. area Conference and if possible, from the Mennonite Brethren in Russia, to come to our Centennial Conference in 1960 with provision for some financial assistance for travel. (b) That we assign this ... to the Board of Reference and Counsel to study ... and to give them authority to invite Mennonite Brethren representatives from various areas of the world to attend the centennial commemoration in 1960. Such invitation ... to be extended through the Conference Executive. GCY, 1957, p. 103.

1957 -- The draft and our youth
That in order that our youth be prepared to face the question of the draft and to live a consistent Christian life of Discipleship we urge all C.E. and C.F. organizations to have at least one session a year especially designed for the teaching of the doctrines of peace, nonresistance, separation and service. GCY, 1957, p. 103.

1957 -- Statement of recognition to P. C. Hiebert and B. B. Janz

That we as a Conference accept the following statement as a word of appreciation to the brethren named, and that we indicate our thanks by standing. (The delegation and all guests stood) GCY, 1957, p. 104.

Statement

There comes a time in the life of every faithful servant of God when the Lord says, "Well done. thou good and faithful servant." In the lives of some this may be a very brief period, again for others it may be a long span of time. Today we rejoice with two of our venerable and greatly beloved brethren, B. B. Janz, now past four score years, and P. C. Hiebert, very close to that high age, that they have been privileged to serve their Master and their fellowmen for a period of some forty years. Hosts of lives were blessed through the efforts of these two saints in Russia during the difficult years of suffering and distress and in various other areas of the world. At this occasion as these brethren retire from active work they find themselves under tremendous emotional stresses tugging at them in several directions. Looking back at the years of labor one's feeling may be, "I have accomplished so little of what I have striven to do. I unworthy servant," another, "my heart rejoices in the opportunity and grace the Lord has extended to me," another, "Lord prosper the work also in the future, supply the laborers to carry on from here." On the part of the Brotherhood there too are deep emotions. Will we be able to quickly find proper replacements for these our co-laborers? Will we be able to adequately express our sincere appreciation for their devoted and sacrificial services? We must look to the Lord to quickly thrust forth the replacements. We shall, however, consider you, brethren Hiebert and Jam, as able (mitarbeitende) consultants. And now in token of our high esteem and appreciation for your long years of untiring

and fruitful service we say thank you, Brother and Sister Hiebert, thank you Brother Janz (Mrs. Janz being deceased), and may God bless your remaining years among us and some glorious day give you a wide entrance into His presence where your reward will surely follow. "As thy days so shall thy strength be." GCY, 1957, p. 104.

1957 -- Three boards to collaborate on reorganization

That the Board of General Welfare continue to operate during the next interim as heretofore, and that the three boards, Board of Reference and Counsel, Board of Foreign Missions, and Board of General Welfare, recommend a procedure of reorganization and function of the Board of General Welfare before the end of the next two years of the Conference interim. GCY, 1957, p. 118.

1960 -- Observance of Peace Sunday to continue

That the Conference continue the established custom of observing The Sunday nearest to Veteran's Day, November 11, as Peace Sunday. GCY, 1960, p. 131.

1960 -- Challenge to our young people

That we challenge our young people to enter the I-W and Voluntary Services in the Mennonite Brethren Conference program. GCY, 1960, p. 131.

1960 -- Increased representation in MCC

(a) That in view of the increase in membership to over 25,000, thus being entitled to a larger representation ... the M.B. Conference be represented in MCC by at least two members, one from the United States of America and one from Canada. (b) That the elected member at large to be one of the representatives in MCC, and the other members to be appointed by the Board of General Welfare. GCY, 1960, p. 132.

1960 -- Joint annual meeting of the Board of Missions and Board of General Welfare

That the recommendation of the Board of Reference and Counsel (be adopted as follows) ... Whereas, the services of our boards are rapidly expanding and the concept of services is enlarging, and whereas, the work of the two boards, Board of Missions and the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations often overlaps in areas where we have common interests ... that the boards have at least one joint annual meeting to discuss overall policies and that the boards pursue inter-board relationships in those geographical areas where they have common concerns and where the guidance of the younger conferences require it ... and, that each board appoint two members who shall: 1. Define areas of common concern, and, 2. Arrange an agenda for discussion, and, 3. Work on a plan for further collaboration of the two boards. GCY, 1960, p. 133.

1963 -- Concern for the aged

See, Aged, concern for.

1963 -- Budget for 1963-1964

See GCY, 1963, pp. 114, 115.

GOVERNMENT OFFICES

1878 -- Holding government offices

That members are not permitted to hold government office or take any part at the polls. However, we appreciate the protection we enjoy under our Government. GCY, 1878.

HAIR, WEARING OF

1927 -- Cutting of hair by sisters

That the cutting of hair by our sisters is in direct contradiction with the Word of God as found in I Cor. 11:6. GCY, 1927, p. 69.

HEAD COVERING

1878 -- Head covering of sisters

That sisters, both single and married, should not be permitted to appear in church meetings nor in family worship without the proper head covering. GCY, 1878.

HOLIDAYS

1890 -- Observing holidays

That we deem it a good Christian custom to observe the following holidays, since they are also observed in all of our churches: New year, Good Friday, Easter (two days), Ascension Day, Pentecost (two days), Christmas (two days). GCY, 1890, p. 106.

1921 -- Observance of Christian holidays

That the Conference recommends the observance of holidays such as Good Friday, Ascension Day, and other Christian holidays since they remind us of their great events. GCY, 1921, p. 54.

IMMORALITY

1943 -- Immorality and church membership

That it shall continue to be the policy of the Conference as based on the Word of God, that if members fall into a life of immorality, that they be excommunicated by the church: and if it concerns ministers of the gospel, that they forfeit for the remainder of their life the right to teach and preach the gospel, according to the following Scriptures: 1 Tim. 3:7, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Tim. 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim. 5: 19-29, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Then that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." Colossians 3:5, 6, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and

covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." GCY, 1943, p. 73.

1945 -- Immorality discipline

That where brethren, especially brethren in the ministry, fall into immorality, it is decided, that the decision of the General Conference of 1943, p. 73, on this matter is Biblical; that the Committee of Reference and Counsel reaffirms this stand; that this stand be reaffirmed publicly at a future Conference; that we unitedly teach and practice our Conference position on this matter; that in matters of principle, discipline, and correction the local churches accept the authority of the decisions of the Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 69.

INSURANCE

1897 -- Life insurance

That it be decided unanimously that our members should not carry life insurance policies. GCY, 1897, pp. 197, 198; GCY, 1902, p. 2.

1915 -- Insurance in the Mennonite Aid Union (of Mt. Lake)

That with reference to membership in the above union, the Conference refers to its resolution of 1897, pp. 197 and 198, stating that the Conference does not permit members of the M.B. Church to belong to life insurance associations. GCY, 1915, p. 468.

1927 -- Life insurance

That it be decided that we abide by former Conference resolutions. Adopted by vote of 88 to 37. GCY, 1927, p. 69.

JESTING AND JOKING

1900 -- Jestings and joking

That jesting and joking by our brethren whether verbal or in writing, in conversation

or in published periodicals should be desisted from. GCY, 1900, p. 232.

K.M.B. CONFERENCE (Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference)

1945 -- Affiliation with K.M.B. Conference in foreign missions

That in answer to the request of the K.M.B. Church in the matter of affiliation in foreign missions work ... decided (a) That in principle we heartily welcome the affiliation desired by the K.M.B. Conference; (b) that the Conference authorizes the Board of Foreign Missions of the M.B. Conference to work out in detail a basis for the collaboration. GCY, 1945, p. 74.

1960 -- The matter of merger
See "Merger"

1960 -- Regarding K.M.B. representation on M.B. boards and committees

That inasmuch as the first few years following the official merger of the K.M.R. and M.B. Conferences will be one of progressive integration and transition, we deem it advisable that the K.M.B. Conference be represented on all boards and committees of the M.B. Conference, and therefore recommend (and adopt) the following: (a) That the K.M.B. delegation appoint or elect representatives to each of the boards of the M.B. Conference. (b) That the number of representatives shall be one on all Conference boards and committees except in the Board of Foreign Missions where two shall serve. (c) That these representatives shall serve on the M.B. boards or committees as additional members to the regularly elected M.B. boards or committees. having all the privileges, including the right to vote, and obligations of membership on that board or committee to which they are appointed. (d) That this interim arrangement of additional K.M.B. representation shall obtain for

the next Conference term (1960-1963) only. GCY, 1960, pp. 34, 35.

LAW, GOING TO

1900 -- Suing and going to court

That the Conference makes reference to its resolution of 1889 (GCY, 1889, p. 89) and asks its members to get along peaceably and not to make use of the law, in order to keep the conscience clear and to have an open way to fellowship with the Lord and with the brethren. GCY, 1900, p. 233.

LAW, OFFENSE AGAINST THE

1905 -- Fugitive from justice

That in the case of persons who committed a crime and fled the country, then were converted and are asking for baptism: the Conference ruled that a handing over to the law is not required if nobody is harmed by the restitution, and the handing over to the law would not change anything. GCY, 1905, p. 340.

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

1960 -- Location name change of Conference headquarters

That the name of its main place of business ... be changed ... from Buhler, Kansas, to Hillsboro, Kansas, and to authorize the officers of the Board of Trustees to process the above change by an amendment to the present charter by the regular legal procedure through the Department of State of the State of Kansas under which laws this corporation exists and functions. GCY, 1960, p. 43.

LORD'S SUPPER (COMMUNION OBSERVANCE)

1878 -- Bread and wine

That in answer as to what to do with bread and wine left after observing the Lord's Supper, it was decided that bread and wine are used as a type, and that we partake of Christ's body and blood by faith. The remnants need not be divided among the partakers. GCY, 1878.

1921 -- Admission to the Lord's Supper
That a minister may serve the Lord's Supper only to believers that were baptized upon confession of their faith. GCY, 1921, p. 54.

1927 -- Administering the Lord's Supper
That only in exceptional cases where it is impossible to secure the services of an ordained minister should unordained ministers be permitted to serve at the Lord's table or at the observance of washing of the feet. The respective church should get in contact with the Home Missions Committee of the district to make proper arrangements for such services. GCY, 1927, p. 69.

1936 -- Admission to the Lord's Supper
That in reply to the question whether a person who is married to a member of our church but is not baptized by immersion, should have access to the Lord's Table, the Conference sees no connection between the Lord's Supper and the marriage question, otherwise marriage might influence the decision concerning the partaking of the Lord's Supper. The baptism by immersion upon the confession of faith and the separation from the unbelievers should always be stressed. The relaxing of these principles of our faith might lead to arbitrary disregard of them. CCY, 1936, p. 68.

MARRIAGE (WEDDINGS)

1878 -- Officiating at weddings

That ministers shall be permitted to unite children of our members in holy wedlock. But they should abstain from serving at weddings of other confessions. GCY, 1878.

1883 -- Marrying outside of the church
That a father, member of the church, cannot give his blessing to his child that withdraws from the church through marriage (outside of the church). GCY, 1883, p. 16.

1887 -- Age at marriage
That a former decision, reached in Europe, be recommended in which the Conference wishes that our members do not enter holy matrimony before they reach the age of 18 years. GCY, 1887, p. 56.

1889 -- Marriage with non-members
That only baptized believers should enter holy matrimony and be married by our church. never members of the church with those outside of the church. This resolution sustains a former Conference decision. GCY, 1889, p. 89.

1895 -- Officiating at non-member weddings
That non-member persons who are of good repute, may be given the blessings of the church for their matrimonial bond. GCY, 1895, pp. 176, 177.

1898 -- Marrying outside of the church
That permission to members to marry outside of the church be given only if the respective person qualifies to be received into (M.B.) church membership through confession of faith. GCY, 1898, p. 209.

1899 -- Uniting believer with unbeliever in wedlock

That the Conference is unanimously opposed to performing a wedding ceremony of a believer with an unbeliever. GCY, 1899, p. 217.

1900 -- Engagement announcement
That engagement of people who intend to be married should be announced in the churches (of which they are members), as has been the custom heretofore. GCY, 1900, p. 233.

1900 -- Patronizing weddings of marriage with unbelievers

That we do not recognize, outfit, nor patronize marriage festivals of members who marry unbelievers. GCY, 1900, p. 233.

1906 -- Officiating at marriages

That in regard to officiating at marriages that involve the joining of believers with unbelievers in holy matrimony, the Conference decided that the brethren abide by the former Conference resolutions, and be very careful to observe our Conference rules. GCY, 1906, p. 360.

1908 -- Marriage announcement

That when members of two different (M.B.) churches intend to marry, it is required that they be announced at both churches.

GCY, 1908, p. 398.

1909 -- Officiating, where members marry non-members

(After the leading brethren of the Conference had expressed their views in opposition to officiating at weddings of members with non-members, a resolution was passed by a vote of 65 to five) that no permission to officiate at such weddings be given. GCY, 1909, p. 424.

1909 -- Marriage of near kin

That although not forbidden in the Word of God, the Conference is opposed to the practice of marrying near relatives, since it is in violation of the natural laws of life, as well as against the constitutional laws of most states. GCY, 1909, p. 425.

1915 -- Uniting a believer with an unbeliever

That the Conference is unanimously opposed to (an M.B. Church or minister) uniting a believer with an unbeliever, and refers to its former resolutions. GCY, 1915, p. 469.

1927 -- Officiating at weddings

Where believers and unbelievers are to be joined in holy wedlock, that we abide by former Conference resolutions. GCY, 1927, p. 69.

1933 -- Regarding marriage with unbelievers

That in case a church member marries an unbeliever, no examination of the non-church member is necessary, and the member forfeits his (her) church membership. In all cases the church should be guided by the circumstances and may exercise a free hand as to how to handle individual instances. Where conversion is in question, an examination is always advisable. GCY, 1933, pp. 65, 66.

1939 -- Unity in marriage regulations

(The Conference decided to abide by the former ruling) that only baptized believers may come into consideration in the question of marriage, that is, such as have received the Biblical form of baptism upon the confession of faith. A motion passed in 1930, whereby the member could remain in the church in good standing if the other party was found to be a child of God, was rejected by the (1939) Conference, and churches were directed to observe the earlier regulations concerning this matter. GCY, 1939, p. 58.

1948 -- Marriage of (M.B.) members with members of other denominations

That (a) When one of our members marries a member of another denomination the (respective) church council is authorized to hear the personal testimony of conversion of the member of the other denomination, and upon the merits of that testimony the church may decide: (1) Whether our member may or may not retain his or her membership in our church; (2) Whether or not the member of the other denomination may be received into our church fellowship. GCY, 1948, p. 101. (b) If and when the church is fully satisfied with respect to the questions of regeneration and baptism, the local church will, depending upon the personal preferences of the couple, either accept the member of the other denomination into our fellowship, or grant a letter of dismissal and

a certificate of good standing to our member. (c) If, however, for any reason, someone wishes not to comply with this Scriptural and fraternal provision, our member, marrying such a one is dismissed from the church membership list. GCY, 1948, p. 101.

1948 -- Adultery, church membership, divorce

That if one party becomes unfaithful to the marriage vows, the innocent party may remain a member of the church, providing that, upon a thorough investigation and examination, the innocence is proved and established.

Marriage is of God, who hath said, "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6). Moses gave permission for the divorce to preserve order among the hardened Jews who had departed from the ordinances of God (Matt. 19:8). This provision was contrary to the ordinance of God from the beginning of man.

In case of the unfaithfulness of a wife, adultery is committed by the husband if he remarries. The unfaithfulness of a wife merely gives the husband the right to "put her away." Whosoever marries an adulteress also committeth adultery.

It is written that we shall not keep company with an adulterer who would be called a brother (1 Cor. 5:9). His reception into the church is thus impossible (Rom. 7:3).

If an adulterer confesses forgiveness of his sin, the proof of the same will be that he has left his sins. "Whoso confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

Paul says, "But if the wife depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband" (1 Cor. 7:11). This is a word to Christians. Thus, according to the word of Paul, adultery and remarriage is contrary to the command of God. If, however, one party does not want to live with the other, the second party is not under bondage to insist

on remaining together. In such a case, the innocent party is not under bondage (1 Cor. 7:15). But, in all cases of adultery the word is applicable, "But if she depart, let her remain unmarried" (1 Cor. 7:11).

Even in case where the guilty party is legally remarried to another, and the possibility of a reconciliation thus cut off, the innocent party has no right to annul nor break the vow once given in holy matrimony. Romans 7: 3 states "But if her husband is dead, she is free from that law: 90 that she is no adulteress."

If such a brother or sister manifests sincere repentance and humbly seeks restoration and spiritual fellowship with the church, circumstances and an unconciliatory attitude of the other party should not hinder such a one from church membership.

The fundamental teaching of Scripture is that whosoever committeth sin, is a servant of sin. If any one is an adulterer, he should be put out of the church fellowship. "Put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (1 Cor. 5:13). May this be the standard guide in our church discipline. GCY, 1948, pp. 105, 106.

MEMBERSHIP (CHURCH) (Acceptance, transfer, etc.)

1894 -- Changing membership

That members remain in the church during the time the church works with them. They should never transfer their membership until all difficulties are cleared up. GCY, 1894, p. 168.

1904 -- Accepting members without letter
That great care be exercised in accepting members from other congregations without a letter or other credentials from such church. It should be ascertained whether disturbances exist with that church, if so, they must first be removed, before the proper release is given. GCY, 1904, p. 319.

1905 -- Accepting wayward persons into membership

That member who has been out of fellowship with his home church may not be accepted by another church before he has corrected all his wrongs committed in the church which he has left when moving away in order that we as churches do not harm one another. GCY, 1905, p. 341.

1908 -- Granting church letters directly
That in regard to granting a church letter directly to a person who is moving away from one location, or sending it to the leadership of the church to which he has moved, it was decided by a vote of 56 to 37 to grant the letter to the person who requests it. GCY, 1908, p. 398.

1908 -- Membership from K.M.B. churches
That upon request on the part of several members of the K.M.B. Church to join the M.B. Church, it was decided that we accept persons who are baptized (after conversion) upon confession of faith, provided they bring a valid church letter, were peacefully released, and are in good standing with the church they are leaving. GCY, 1908, p. 398.

1924 -- Accepting members without letter
That members coming from other churches and seeking admission be accepted only by letter. If a letter is not obtainable because of the respective person's indebtedness or other involvements, the matter be first cleared in the church where he was a member. Church letters should be sent to the accepting church, and only in exceptional cases to the members themselves. GCY, 1924, pp. 65, 66.

1930 -- Retaining or losing church membership

That in answer to, "may a congregation disregard the rules and resolutions of the Conference, and permit a member to retain membership, who marries a person not immersed nor converted," the Conference refers to the Word of God, 1 Cor. 7:39, that in case of marriage by our

member to a believer, although not a member of our church, if done "in the Lord," the member may retain his membership in good standing. But if a member, in violation of 2 Cor. 6:14-17, marries an unbeliever, he therewith forfeits his church membership. GCY, 1930, p. 60.

1936 -- Unwarranted acceptance into membership

That upon a complaint from the E.M.B. Church that members of their church who have been under discipline or have been excommunicated, have been accepted into membership of M.B. congregations, the Conference points out that its position is that only persons who are in good standing and who have rectified all offences in another church may be accepted into M.B. church membership. Since no special cases have been named (by our sister church), no definitely particular steps can be taken. However, if any cases exist, they should be dealt with by the respective Committee of Reference and Counsel of the district in which they may be resident. GCY, 1936, p. 69.

1942 -- Discontinuing church attendance

That when members stay away from church, the church should not neglect its pastoral duties towards such persons, but should seek such persons who do not attend the services of the church of which they are members, with the object of winning them back into the fellowship of the church. If it should be ascertained through such contact that the life of that person is not in harmony with the teachings of the Word of God, and that the person cannot be won, the church should exercise its discipline, as the merits of the case may justify. All this should be done within the period of one year. GCY, 1943, p. 76.

1945 -- Informing pastors when church members move

That in order to avoid all possible loss of members from our churches through

carelessness, each pastor in whose church members are leaving, write or inform the pastor of the locality to which they are going, so that this pastor may make immediate contact with said members at their new place of residence. GCY, 1945, pp. 71, 72.

1945 -- Statement of release from membership

That a member of our church who is in good standing and wishes to join a church of another denomination (other than the K.M.B.) is to receive only a letter of release with no recommendation for membership. GCY, 1945, p. 71.

1954 -- Associate membership

(a) That we hold, that all should submit to the Biblical form of baptism by immersion. Those adults baptized by a different mode than immersion but born again, who are seeking a closer fellowship with our church in communion service and for spiritual nurture, should live a consistent Christian life and be willing to recognize our stand on all our doctrinal convictions. (b) That the incoming Committee of Reference and Counsel ...study the question of associate membership and its limitations and rights and submit their recommendations to the District Conferences and for final adoption to the next General (M.B.) Conference session. GCY, 1954, p. 23.

1957 -- Associate membership, pending from the 1954 Conference, GCY, 1954, p. 23.

That the statement of Baptism and Reception of Members into the Mennonite Brethren Church" be referred to the various districts for study and adoption as follows: That whereas the Mennonite Brethren Church holds to the position that the New Testament baptism points to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and That whereas the historic position of the Mennonite Brethren Church is that baptized

believers are gathered into churches for fellowship and edification; and That whereas there are earnest inquiries concerning the importance of the mode of baptism, and, consequently, the receiving of members into the Mennonite Brethren Church; and

That whereas the General Conference delegated to the Committee of Reference and Counsel the assignment of formulating a statement on the question of baptism and the reception of members in the M.B.

Church, this assignment being imperative in order that the churches of North America and South America, as well as the mission churches on the mission fields, might not become confused about and disorderly in our doctrinal teachings and practical procedures in these matters, that, therefore, the following facts and guiding principles be observed: GCY, 1957, p. 108.

1957 -- The meaning of baptism
Water baptism. Water baptism is an ordinance which Christ has appointed to be administered in the church as a visible sign of the saving experience of Christ in the believer. New Testament baptism points to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12) and sets forth symbolically the believer's previous entrance into death and resurrection with Christ. The command of Christ for believers to be baptized is to be a perpetual obligation and is not, therefore, dispensational. Any modification of the ordinance of baptism is in violation of the authoritative command of Christ. (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16: 16, Acts 2:38). GCY, 1957, p. 108.

1957 -- The mode of baptism

(a) Baptism not redemptive. Although baptism does not save the believer, let alone the mode of baptism, we do hold and teach that the act of baptism, as well as the mode of baptism, is of fundamental importance. The act of baptism is important because it is

enjoined by Christ upon every believer. The mode of baptism (immersion) is important because it is the only mode which adequately sets forth in symbol the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Any other mode of baptism invalidates the real, symbolical meaning of baptism.

(b) Immersion. A closer examination of the Scriptures will disclose the following data: First, the word "baptize" (Greek -- baptidzo) requires the meaning immerse." (Matt. 3:6, 11; Mark 1:5, 9). Second, the believer is never said to be baptized with water, as would be required by "sprinkling" or "pouring," but always in water. (Mark 1:5, 8; Matt. 3:11; John 1:26, 31, 33; Acts 2:2, 4). Water is never said to be "baptized" upon a person. This particular usage of the verb "baptize" confirms our conclusion that its meaning is to "immerse." Third, the very circumstance attending the administration of baptism indicates that it must have been by immersion. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan. John was baptizing in Aenon near Salim because there was much water (John 3:23). In the case of the eunuch and Philip, "they both went down into the water." Fourth, consistent and thorough scholars of the Word admit that "immersion seems to have been the practice of the Apostolic age ...; and it is implied in Paul's language, especially in his figure of baptism as spiritual burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5, Colossians 2: 12)" (*Hasting's Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, Vol. II, article on "New Testament Baptism" by J. V. Bartlett, p. 375).

It is evident that, as the church has no right to modify the symbolical meaning of the Lord's Supper, she has no right to modify the symbolical meaning of baptism, viz. burial with Christ in Baptism.

Any substitution of the mode of baptism abrogates its symbolical meaning. GCY, 1957, p. 108.

1957 -- Reception of members into the church

(a) Uniformity of practice. As to the receiving of members into the church, the New Testament clearly alludes to a uniformity of practice. All believers united with the church; exulted in consciousness of the new birth through faith in Christ; gave evidence that their preparation for baptism and church membership was not based on superficial knowledge or merely on their own wishes but on the full understanding of salvation; and that they participated in fellowship and submitted themselves to the discipline of the church. There is no allusion, whatever, in the New Testament to individual believers or to a class of believers who are outside of the churches, and thus irresponsible to their authority and discipline. Thus it is evident, that as the New Testament knows of no diversion from the basic principle of believers being gathered into churches, there is likewise no provision made for partial membership in the church, such as is commonly called "associate membership."

(b) Apostles doctrine. Upon their admission into the church, the believers continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine. What doctrine? Evidently that given in the instructions received before their baptism, whatever be the reference to their subsequent and fuller instructions. A departure from these instructions was considered a departure from the teachings of the apostles. (Acts 2 clearly alludes to the instructions in lieu of baptism and church membership. Acts 2:37, 40, 41, 42). It was for this reason that Paul exhorted Timothy to "hold fast the form of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13).

(c) The Lord's Supper. Although conflicting opinions regarding the meaning and the mode of baptism arose in the course of the history of the church; and, although we readily concede that other churches

and denominations have within their membership genuine believers, the Mennonite Brethren Church does not deem it possible in every instance to adhere to the position of exclusive communion, according to which, no individual is permitted to participate in fellowship at the Lord's Supper who has not been baptized by immersion. If there are believers who cannot submit to immersion and thus cannot identify themselves with the Mennonite Brethren Church, we would counsel them to remain in their church. However, if they cannot conscientiously remain in their church, we would advise them formally to withdraw from their church and unite with a church with which they are in full agreement.

If true believers happen to be present at the communion service, they are welcome, indeed, as guests, provided they are known to us: and, if they are not known to us, we would request them to apply to the leadership of the church for admission to the Lord's Table, to whom conclusive testimony be given as to their spiritual life. Should believers of other churches wish regularly to partake with us of the Lord's Supper, we would allow them to do so, provided their testimony satisfies the church concerning their spiritual life; that they assure us that they will not receive the communion with manifestly unsaved people; and that they submit themselves to the discipline of our church, as well as observe our principles of church membership. GCY, 1957, p. 109.

1957 -- Associate membership

That non-immersed believers cannot be received for membership for the following reasons:

(a) The fundamental principles of our Conference can be altered only when we realize that our interpretation of Scripture has been one-sided and that we have erred in understanding the Mind and Spirit of

the Scriptures and so grieved the Spirit of Christ. We are prepared, in such instances, openly to correct our confession of faith and the principles and practices of our church.

(b) If the practice of accepting non-immersed believers is carried out in our churches, without due consideration of the consensus of our entire Brotherhood and without regard to the principles of our church, such procedure, though popularly accepted by the liberally minded, might easily tend towards divisions within the church, which (divisions) would be more serious than the rejection of a few persons.

(c) Believers of other denominations are nevertheless welcome to enter a spiritual fellowship with us even to the point of interrelation in service activities, missionary enterprises, and the like, without being formally accepted into our church.

(d) Were we to allow non-immersed believers to become members of our church, where should we draw the line? Some were sprinkled as infants; others, before they became believers; and still others subsequent to their conversion. If the non-immersed believers, who were sprinkled subsequent to their conversion, be admitted into our churches, would we not thereby acknowledge the validity of sprinkling (or pouring) and undervalue the Biblical principle of immersion?

It is extremely difficult to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of admitting into our church non-immersed believers and, at the same time, console the conscience and assure the hearts of our members. A greater assurance will be ours, if we continue the practice of accepting only immersed believers. We can change our principles and practices only if our church arrives at a conclusive conviction that the mode of baptism is meaningless. It would be easier for a more liberally-minded person to accept this position than for one who holds to

the verbal-plenary inspiration of the Scriptures and seeks to interpret the form and meaning of the Word of God.

(e) A different situation obtains in the matter of accepting a body (group) of Christians, who, as a district conference, wish to enter into an interrelationship with our General Conference, on the basis of missionary enterprises, and the like. We may accept such groups, provided they practice immersion on the mission fields. Their ministers would be recognized in all churches and be welcomed in the ministry of the Word. Their members would also be welcome to participate in the communion. Should any one of their members, however, move within the proximity of a Mennonite Brethren Church and wish to be formally admitted into the church, he must submit to immersion, otherwise he remains a guest in the church.

(f) Conclusion. The Conference does not consider it our mission to increase our membership at the expense of our basic principles or to enlarge our churches by confusing the minds of our members through a new church practice. Whenever the pastoral leadership becomes aware of a spiritual retrogression in his church he shall seek to solve the problem with a revival of his church, instead of seeking to mitigate the evil by an increase in membership. (See Revelation 3:1-6). The Committee of Reference and Counsel deems it to be the responsibility of the church to increase their spiritual power, to instruct the spiritually immature members in the knowledge of the Word of God, and to inspire faith and obedience through the Gospel of Christ. In conclusion, we should like to remind ourselves of the experiences of our first brethren here in America. When the issue of the union of believers of other churches was fervently upheld, they relinquished their fervor on the basis of accepted practice and resolved to hold fast to the principles of

the Mennonite Brethren Church. Their steadfast position evoked disapproval, attacks, and even divisiveness within the church; nevertheless, the church increased. Were we merely concerned about large numbers and greater assemblies, the admixture of our groups were a way to that end. But as a Conference, we are concerned that the grace of God, that bringeth salvation might achieve its objective in a practical life, as it is declared in Titus 2:11-14. GCY, 1957, pp. 109, 110, 111.

1963 -- Membership of non-immersed believers

That, (a) As a brotherhood we reaffirm our understanding of Scripture with reference to water baptism and church membership, namely, that born-again believers should, upon their personal request, be baptized by immersion after an open declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ and their personal commitment to follow Him in discipleship; and (b) that such baptized believers are to be received into the church fellowship, growth and service.

(c) We recognize that the body of Jesus Christ is one and we fellowship with all truly born-again believers who follow Jesus Christ in obedience to the Word of God; but we further recognize that a working fellowship always necessitates agreement on major issues of doctrine and ethics. This is especially true with respect to those who are called to teach and give guidance in the church.

(d) As a brotherhood we permit local churches to accept into fellowship believers who have been baptized upon an experiential and confessed faith with a mode of baptism other than immersion. In order to maintain and foster unity in doctrine and polity such members should agree to the following: (1) That they accept the confession of faith of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (2) That they will be baptized by immersion as soon as they

receive such light through the Word and in fellowship with others who hold that conviction. (3) That they will not function or be candidates in any office requiring ordination in the Mennonite Brethren Church. (4) That such privileges relate to fellowship in the local church and therefore churches will not transfer by letter any members received into fellowship without immersion. GCY, 1963, pp. 38, 39.

1963 -- Study concerning reception of non-immersed believers

That the study that was made by the Board of Reference and Counsel concerning the reception into fellowship of non-immersed believers be made available to the churches through the Conference papers or as an appendage to the minutes. GCY, 1963, p. 45.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC)

(See also General Welfare and Public Relations)

1954 -- Principles governing relations with MCC

That, because of the constantly expanding program of MCC, with periodical additions of new phases of service, some of them not related to the specific aspect of relief, and because of growing uncertainty in our Conference constituency as to our responsibility toward such projects, and because of the eventual withdrawal of some of our churches from the ministry of MCC which may result from such hesitancy,..., that we as a Conference define our principles which are to govern our future relationship with the Mennonite Central Committee in order to maintain the full confidence and cooperation of our entire constituency in this ministry. As a basis for ...such principles, we (as Conference) adopt the following principles to govern our

relationship of the cooperative program with MCC:

(a) That we submit a distinct statement of objectives and purpose of every MCC activity other than direct emergency relief work and the rehabilitation of our suffering brethren to the District Conferences and General Conference, and permit them to decide whether we desire to participate in them or not. (During the interim the Committee of Reference and Counsel takes the place of the Conference.)

(b) That our participation in the important ministry of relief be as closely as possible coordinated with the missionary objectives of our Conference of bringing the Gospel to the people to whom we minister relief.

(c) That where opportunities present themselves of extending urgently needed relief to our own missionary constituency, that this need receive preference to the needs in the general MCC program.

(d) That we appreciate the effort on the part of MCC in the past to maintain a contact with the Conference in the selection of personnel from our constituency. That it is also the wish of the Conference for the future that only such brethren serve in any branch of MCC as members of their committee or in their advisory council as elected or appointed for such responsibility either by the Conference or on authorized Conference committee.

(e) That the Conference adopt the procedure of electing the member at large of the Committee of General Welfare and Public Relations first to serve as the Mennonite Brethren representative in the MCC.

GCY, 1954, pp. 21, 22.

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE

1951 -- Representation at Mennonite World Conference

(a) That we favor representation at the Mennonite World Conference to be held in

Switzerland in the summer of 1952. (b) That the district conferences send brethren whom they appoint for this purpose. GCY, 1951, p. 72.

1954 -- Mennonite World Conference
That in view of the opportunities, channels, and challenges of giving a positive Evangelical testimony, we again send representatives to the Mennonite World Conference to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1957.... That the Committee of Reference and Counsel ...appoint the speakers allotted to our Conference....

That the various district conferences be encouraged to consider ... sending representatives also. GCY, 1954, p. 20.

1957 -- Constitution, Mennonite World Conference

That the proposed constitution and by-laws for the Mennonite World Conference be referred to the various district conferences for study and approval. (For complete copy of World Conference constitution see M.B. Conference Year Book, 1957, pp. 114, 115, 116). GCY, 1957, p. 114.

1957 -- Representation on Mennonite World Conference Council

That the incoming Board of Reference and Counsel be instructed to appoint a Conference representative to serve on the council for the Mennonite World Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 116.

MERGER (of M.B. and K.M.B. Conferences)

1945 -- Collaboration in foreign missions with K.M.B. Conference

See "K.M.B. Conference." GCY, 1945, p. 74.

1948 -- Note:

In 1948 the officers of the M.B. Conference extended an invitation to the officers of the K.M.B. Conference to consider the matter of having the two sister conferences unite.

1951 -- Merger Invitation to K.M.B. Conference

That the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church extend an invitation to our sister conference, the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference, to consider jointly the possibility of uniting their spiritual forces into one general conference for the sake of advancing the cause of Christ and for our mutual strengthening in the Lord and that the following may be considered as a possible basis for such unity:

(a) That the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference join the General Conference of the M.B. Church as a district conference and thus retain its identity.

(b) That the K.M.H. Conference voluntarily accept all the privileges and responsibilities, spiritually and materially as do the other district conferences of our General Conference.

(c) That we charge the Committee of Reference and Counsel that will be elected for the next term, with the responsibility of inviting the Conference Executive Committee of the K.M.B. Conference to a joint session in the very near future for the purpose of seeking to work out fuller details for a possible merger. GCY, 1951, p. 123.

1957 -- Letter of response regarding merger with K.M.B. Conference

That the following letter written by Brother B. J. Braun, be sent to our sister Conference of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church who have voted to merge with our Conference after their 1958

Conference sessions:

Rev. C. F. Plett, Chairman, Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference, Doland, South Dakota. Dear Brother in Christ: Your good letter of October 11, 1957, conveying the official communication that the church of the K.M.B. Conference, through its delegates, has decided by a two-thirds majority vote to merge with the Conference

of the M.B. Church of N.A., was received with joy by the delegates of said Conference now in session here at Yarrow, B.C., Canada.

This historic development is to us an encouraging confirmation of the fact that the official overture made to your brotherhood by the Conference leadership of our brotherhood in 1948 was indeed of divine providence and of spiritual motivation toward spiritual unity. On the other hand, the time taken on your part to study and consider this step, strongly indicates that a great deal of prayerful care, spiritual concern and wise leadership has gone into this weighty decision. May the Lord continue to guide you.

We fully recognize that many details and many hours of mutual consultation remain before we may be able to consummate negotiations and officially effect the merger.

In view of the fact that there may be many emotional, geographic and spiritual factors which are best known to the leadership of the K.M.B. Conference, we deem it best, that all further initiative and pace of dispatch, be left to the duly elected committees and officers of the K.M.B. Conference.

Please feel free to address yourself to our newly elected Conference chairman, Brother Dan E. Friesen of Reedley, California, who together with the Committee of Reference and Counsel stands ready to negotiate the merger.

We are praying that the Lord, the Head of the Church, may hasten the day when we, as two like-minded brotherhoods will join hands to become one united evangelical body for a strengthened testimony of the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ "till He come."

We greet you with Phil. 1:3-6. In the name of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. (Written

at Yarrow, B.C., Canada, October 23, 1957.) GCY, 1957, pp. 116, 117.

1960 -- M.B. document of merger (That the M.B.) Document of Merger, Nov. 14, 1960 be adopted as follows: In the years 1860 and 1869, respectively, there came into being two distinct evangelical movements -- the Mennonite Brethren and the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren. Though distinct one from the other in time, place and organization, they were, nevertheless, identical in all spiritual essentials: they sprang from a common cultural and religious root. In both instances it was the experience of conversion through a personal acceptance of Christ as Saviour which gave rise to the new spiritual movement. Independently both were led to the conviction that "baptism upon faith" by immersion is the fullest biblical expression of the true significance of this ordinance; both stressed and glorified in the assurance of salvation (Heilsgewissheit). Both sensed an immediate urge and burden to testify personally and to evangelize locally and globally. The message of both was conversion, immersion, separation, assurance, evangelism and an unequivocal acceptance of the Bible as the absolute authority in all matters of faith and practice ("Was sagt das Wort?" was the characteristic question). Both exercised strict church discipline with reverential severity: both caught the significance of the New Testament word "brethren" and adopted it for their name; the Mennonite Brethren, born January 6, 1860, Elisabethtal, South Russia, and the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren, born September 21, 1869, Crimes, Russia. Both continued to adhere to such Mennonite-Anabaptist distinctives as non-resistance, nonconformity, abstention from the oath, and simplicity of life.

Through the courses of a century now these two brotherhoods have wrought and lived side by side. The spiritual affinity between

the K.M.B. and M.B. Conferences has constantly been symbolized by a close work-relationship (Arbeitsgemeinschaft) over many years in the areas of foreign missions and Christian higher education as well as by an unqualified mutual acceptance of members by regular letter of transfer.

The desire to unite our two Conferences has been voiced repeatedly by individual brethren from both sides over a great number of years. In order to reactivate negotiations and to implement the process, the Mennonite Brethren Conference through the Committee of Reference and Counsel made a concrete overture for a merger to the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference while the latter was in session at Yale, South Dakota, October 10, 1949.

The official response of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference through its Merger Committee was dated June 16, 1956, and submitted to the Mennonite Brethren Conference while in session at Yarrow, B.C., October 20-23, 1957.

Aside from the above-mentioned official documents there have been numerous consultative negotiations between delegated representatives of the two conferences. As a result of the faithful labors of many brethren a broad base of agreements has been established and details sufficiently regulated to clear the way for the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Conference and the Mennonite Brethren Conference to merge in one brotherhood for full fellowship and service as one denominational body to promote the Kingdom of God through evangelism, church building, Christian higher education, publication, home and foreign missions, and the alleviation of human suffering. To this end we here and now clasp hands as a token of our spiritual unity and to pledge henceforth to be one organizationally, as we are organically, and to dedicate our material possessions, our spiritual gifts and ourselves to Christ "who

died for us" -- "till He come." GCY, 1960, pp. 27, 28.

1960 -- K.M.B. document response to merger Brother chairman, officials and delegates of the Mennonite Brethren Conference, and Krimmer Mennonite Brethren representatives: Greetings in the name of our Lord: In an early German copy of our constitution, we find the following incident recorded in the preface: In order to maintain peace with England, the people of Holland at one time made a coin. On one side they portrayed a yoke of oxen with this inscription: "United we are strong." On the other side some earthen crocks were pictured floating on the ocean with this inscription, "Against each other, we are broken." This speaks to us of unity and its blessing.

We may speak of three levels of unity: first, organizational unity. We have gathered here today for the purpose of becoming one in organization. We are deleting the geographical designation of origin, the "Krimmer," not because we are bankrupt, discouraged, or too small to carry on a program, nor because we have lost vision. We are prepared to become one in body, one in program and one in purpose because we believe it would honor the Lord. But we recognize that there is yet a higher form of unity, the unity of doctrine or theology.

This second level of unity, doctrinal, is one in which we have shared a similar faith for almost a century, being born in the same revival. A few cardinal principles on which we stand are our faith in the Bible: God's divine revelation, as our final authority in faith and practice; the new birth and changed life, the need for all men; the church, as the body of Christ of which He is the head and only mediator between God and man: non-conformity to the world, its prince and its principles; Christian discipleship, as a walk of obedience and

love to the Savior; and the Christian witness and mission of the church to the unconverted everywhere. On these principles we agree, we trust, but there is yet a higher level of unity.

Our spiritual unity is the most desirable. In Acts two we read of how the Holy Spirit of God produced in believers a oneness of heart and mind, so that they had "all things common." This unity and the resulting union of believers was a gift of the Holy Spirit.

This spiritual unity supersedes but results in or includes the first two levels of unity. For this we pray. We believe such organizational, theological and spiritual unity honors the Lord and is the fulfillment of His prayer in John 17: "That they may be one." The end and purpose of such union is twofold: (1) "That they may be made perfect (mature) in one." in other words, the edification and perfection of the believer and body of Christ. (2) The conversion of the world, "and that the world may know that thou hast sent me," verse 23, or as verse 21 says, "that the world may believe."

May our union here today result in our mutual encouragement, edification, and strengthening in the Lord and His work, and also be a real witness to the glory of Christ and His body before a lost and confused world to the end that many may turn to Christ in these last days. GCY, 1960, pp. 28, 29.

(For the official merger Brother Dan E. Friesen chairman of the M.B. Conference] called the brethren C. F. Plett, chairman of the K.M.B. Conference; F. C. Peters, chairman of the Canadian Conference; Waldo Hiebert, chairman of the United States Conference; the vice chairman, D. J. Pankratz, and the vice chairman, Brother [J. J.] Kleinsasser, of the K.M.B. Conference, to join in extending the hand of fellowship in the merger. Words of welcome and response were exchanged by the brethren.

(The chairman, Brother Dan E. Friesen, and Brother C. F. Plett then clasped hands and offered prayer. Brother Eugene Gerbrandt led the congregation in singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

(Thus the merger was accomplished and the two Conferences of brethren are now one. All documents read during the merger were adopted for record). GCY, 1960, p. 29.

MINISTERS' HANDBOOK

1939 -- Ministers' HANDBOOK

The Conference charged the newly elected Committee of Reference and Counsel to implement the matter of providing an M.B. Ministers' Handbook through the nomination of a committee for that purpose. GCY, 1939, p. 58.

1945 -- Printing of Ministers' handbook That the printing of the manuscript of a ministers' handbook prepared by the Committee of Reference and Counsel be authorized, and that the (M.B.) Publishing House be delegated to compile and complete this book. GCY, 1945, p. 75.

MINISTERS AND THE MINISTRY

1893 -- May a minister conduct a business?

That a minister should choose as simple a vocation (or business) as possible in order not to have his own spiritual life nor that of others harmed on that account. GCY, 1893, p. 156.

1901 -- Complaints against ministers and elders

(No formal action was taken, but the advice was given) that 1 Tim. 5:19 be the guide, and that all workers so walk with God that there arise no valid reason for complaint

against ministers and elders. GCY, 1901, p. 247, 248.

MINISTERS' RETIREMENT

1945 -- Plan for assistance to retired ministers

That the recommendation by the Committee of Reference and Counsel (to refer) this question to the home missions committee of the General Conference which, together with the Board of Trustees, is to work out a plan to be presented at the next (1948)

Conference (be adopted). GCY, 1945, p. 72.

1948 -- Ministers' retirement plan of the M.B. Conference

That the Board of Trustees and the Committee of Home Missions continue to study the matter (of a ministerial retirement plan ... first draft of which was presented at the 1948 Conference, see GCY, 1948, pp. 102, 103). GCY, 1948. p. 103.

1951-- Ministers' retirement

That the details of the plan (submitted by the Board of Trustees) be duplicated and submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for study and approval and then remitted to the various churches for study and adoption if they so see fit. GCY, 1951, pp. 95, 96.

MISSION, FOREIGN

1879-- Beginning of mission work as a Conference

That our Conference begin mission work, that an evangelist be engaged and weekly offerings be held to defray such incurred expenses. GCY, (Mimeographed manuscript), 1879, p. 3.

1884 -- Foreign missions

That the Conference participate in India (foreign) missions by sup- porting a native

worker on the (Baptist) field with \$100 per year. GCY, 1884, p. 25.

1885 -- National worker support

That the Conference support two national workers at \$100 per year on the India (Baptist) field. GCY, 1885, p. 34.

1885 -- Foreign missions committee established

That the Conference establish a committee to administer the foreign missions funds. (Eight brethren were elected). GCY, 1885, p. 35.

1887 -- Africa mission support and candidate training

That the Conference appropriate 1100 for mission work in Africa, and contribute 1150 annually towards the school expense of the candidate in training for mission service. GCY, 1887, p. 53.

1889 -- Appropriation for missions

That the Conference support Brother John Berg (in his educational preparation for mission service) with \$150, two national missionaries in India with 1100 each; and appropriate 1100 for Africa. GCY, 1889, p. 87.

1889 -- Looking for a mission field

That the Brethren Abr. Schellenberg, Cor. P. Wedel, and J. F. Harms, look around for a mission field, and should there be traveling expenses, to pay them out of the foreign missions treasury. GCY, 1889, p. 87.

1893 -- Support for the Cameroon field, Africa

That the Conference appropriate %200 for the engagement of national preachers on the Cameroon (Baptist) field in Africa (where Brother P. H. Wedel at the time planned to go for service). GCY, 1893, p. 153.

1893 -- Release of John Berg

That, due to poor health, upon his own request, the Conference release Brother John Berg from his commitment to serve the

M.B. Conference in foreign missions. GCY, 1893, p. 154.

1894 -- American Indians

That the Conference appropriate \$150 for work among the Oklahoma Indians, and to engage Brother Henry Kohfeld, who feels a call to this ministry, for a period of four months, to labor in Oklahoma near some M.B. settlements. GCY, 1894, p. 208.

1895 -- Comanche Indians

That since a location has been found for mission work among the Comanche Indians, and since the (U.S.) Government donates 160 acres of land for this purpose, the Conference appropriate \$800 for a missionary residence and a church, and \$500 for the support of Brother Henry Kohfeld as missionary. GCY, 1895, p. 175.

1895 -- Appropriation for India and Africa

The Conference also voted \$200 to support Abr. Friesen in India, and \$400 for the mission in the Cameroons of Africa where P. H. Wedel serves (at the time). GCY, 1895, p. 175.

1896 -- Comanche Indian Mission, Post Oak

(a) That the Conference ordain Brother Henry Kohfeld, (b) and ask the missions committee to find a (deaconess) sister to be sent to assist the Kohfelds in the mission work. (c) To appropriate \$200 for additional building needs. GCY, 1896, pp. 185, 186.

1896 -- Africa mission

That the Conference consider the Brethren P. H. Wedel and Heinrich Enns as our missionaries (serving at the time in Africa on the Baptist, Cameroon field), and to see whether within the near future they may be able to come into M.B. Conference mission work. GCY, 1896, p. 189.

1896 -- Appropriations

That the Conference appropriate \$150 for Abr. Friesen, India; \$150 for P. H. Wedel,

Cameroon; and \$200 for Heinrich Enns. GCY, 1896, p. 189.

1896 -- Missions committee reduced to five members

(That the Conference elect the Brethren) Abr. Schellenberg, John Foth, J. F. Harms, Cor. P. Wedel, Abr. Richert, to serve in the (foreign) missions committee for three years, and allow traveling expenses to be paid from the foreign missions treasury. GCY, 1896, p. 190.

1897 -- Promotion of Comanche Indian Mission

(a) That in order to speed the mission outreach among the Comanche Indians in Oklahoma, and since Brother A. J. Becker is completing his education, and is willing to serve as teacher, the Conference appropriates \$200 to construct a school building, and \$200 as salary for Brother Becker. (b) To grant Missionary Kohfeld a tent, a month's furlough, and an interpreter for one month. GCY, 1897, pp. 196, 197. Note: The missions committee reported in 1898 that operating a school for the Indians would also require dormitories for the students. Since the Conference had not authorized the committee to construct and operate a dormitory, the committee had not started the school for Indians. The school matter for Indians was dropped in 1898.)

1898 -- India mission to be opened

That the Conference accept Brother (and Sister) N. N. Hiebert as missionaries to India (with a view of starting an M.B. Mission in India), and to entrust to the missions committee the further preparation for and sending out (of the Hieberts) to the field. GCY, 1898, p. 207.

1898 -- Advisory mission board established

That the leading brethren of the individual churches constitute an (advisory) Mission Board to be drawn into consultation and

counsel by the missions committee. GCY, 1898, p. 208.

1898 -- M.B. Mission endeavor to be independent

(General opinion of the Conference) that as a Conference we do not want to subordinate our mission endeavor to other mission organizations or societies. If individual brethren or sisters make themselves available for service to outside mission organizations or societies, then their support and welfare becomes the responsibility of those who send them out. GCY, 1898, p. 208.

1899 -- A second sister for India

That the missions committee be charged to send another single sister, if one can be found, to assist the Henry Kohfelds and sister Maria Regier (at Post Oak, India). GCY, 1899, p. 215.

1899 -- Rate of support to India missionaries

That the Conference appropriate \$700 for support of the N. N. Hieberts, and \$300 for single sisters (at the time Elizabeth Neufeld) in India. GCY, 1899, p. 215.

1899 -- Foreign missions committee reduced to three, and term staggered

That the following brethren serve (as indicated), Abr. Schellenberg, chairman, one year; Franz Ediger, treasurer, two years; J. F. Hanns, secretary, three years. GCY, 1899, p. 216.

1900 -- Possibility of Oklahoma Indians being relocated

That (in spite of the possibility that the Comanche Indians at India may be relocated) the (M.B. Post Oak) station continue. If a change becomes necessary, that Brother Kohfeld together with the missions committee do the best that can be done (under the circumstances). GCY, 1900, p. 226.

1900 -- Founding a mission station in India

That we proceed with the founding of our own mission station in India: that we rejoice that according to latest information from Brother N. N. Hiebert, a mission compound is available at Secunderabad; and that we allow the missions committee together with the missionaries on the field to take the necessary steps to implement the matter. GCY, 1900, p. 227.

1900 -- Mission board chairman to visit churches

That the chairman of the mission board visit the churches and stations to create interest in foreign missions and give information; that an allowance of 1200 annually be granted to him: and that the traveling expenses be covered by special offerings. GCY, 1900, p. 230.

1901 -- Kohfelds continue, A. J. Beckers added

(a) That we recognize the work of Brother and Sister Henry Kohfeld (at Post Oak), and wish them courage and blessings for continued service. (b) That Brother and Sister A. J. Becker be sent to assist the Kohfelds, be allowed a \$400 support per year, and that the Conference build a separate residence for them. GCY, 1901, p. 240.

1901 -- Acceptance of the J. H. Pankratz's for India

That Brother and Sister John H. Pankratz be sent as workers to India, and be allowed \$800 support per year. GCY, 1901, p. 242.

1901 -- Acceptance of the D. F. Bergtholds for India

That Brother and Sister D. F. Bergthold be accepted as missionaries for India ...with an annual support of \$500. GCY, 1901, p. 242.

1901 -- N. N. Hiebert traveling missionary

That Brother N. N. Hiebert be engaged as traveling missionary with an annual support of 8600. GCY, 1901, p. 248.

1904 -- Note:

By 1904 there were 60 members in the (advisory) Board of Missions -- Verwaltungskomitee -- of whom 1/3 were elected each year for a three-year term. GCY, 1904, pp. 310, 311.

1906 -- Staff at Post Oak Mission reduced
(After an explanation by the missions committee, that the Post Oak station did not require two full-time families, it was decided) That in the future only one (missionary) family be assigned to Post Oak. Which family is to serve, is left to the decision of the missions committee and the brethren Abr. Richert, M. M. Just, and Peter Richert. GCY, 1906, p. 351.

1906 -- Furlough allowance to single sisters

That the sister (from India) who had returned for furlough, be allowed a yearly support of \$600. GCY, 1906, p. 351.

1906 -- Ramapatnam patronage

That since the (Baptist) Missionary Union has been gracious to place at our service as assistant preachers some of their missionary students trained in their Ramapatnam Seminary, the Conference acknowledges this with gratitude, and appropriate \$100 annually towards the support of the school. GCY, 1906, p. 352.

1907 -- Resolutions on Foreign missions

(a) That the J. H. Pankratzes be granted \$200 to cover illness expenditures. (b) That an appropriation of \$2,000 be made for a new station residence at (Nagarkurnool). (c) That we allow missionary families on furlough \$600 per year, and in the future make special provisions. That missionaries are not obligated to work (in return for the financial furlough allowance) since as a rule they come home for recuperation. Expenses incurred in church visitations are to be borne by the respective churches. (d) That Sister Elisabeth S. Neufeld (India) be supported in her work or on furlough with \$300 for another year, and allow her to regulate further developments, whether in

her work or on furlough, according to what is most feasible. (e) That newly appointed missionaries from the time they were accepted for mission service until the time they land in India, be allowed the salary we pay evangelists here in the homeland. (f) That Brother A. J. Becker be ordained and that the church at Isabella, Oklahoma, perform the ordination. (g) That Brother Henry Kohfeld receive a salary of \$300 for another year, but that his time and occupation be left to his own disposal. GCY, 1907, pp. 371, 372.

1907 -- Katharina Lohrenz accepted

That Sister Lohrenz be sent to India for educational (school) work among children. GCY, 1907, p. 373.

1908 -- Ordination of the J.H. Voths and Katharina Lohrenz

Since it is required that missionaries be ordained before being sent out, that the J. H. Voths be ordained by the M. B. Church in Minnesota, and that Sister Katharina Lohrenz be commissioned (geweiht) for her (school) service by the Ebenfeld congregation. GCY, 1907, p. 373.

1908 -- Health and furlough of J. H. Pankratzes

(a) That missionaries, J. H. Pankratz, remain in India another year if possible, but that on account of health conditions, they come home before a breakdown. (b) That the missions committee inquire of the Pankratzes, and that the workers on the field confer together, and that if they deem it advisable, the Pankratzes come home before it becomes too difficult for them. GCY, 1908, p. 389.

1908 -- Regarding Sister Elisabeth Neufeld

That Sister Elisabeth Neufeld be again supported with \$300, and that the decision (as to whether to remain in India or to come home to nurse her parents) be left to her. GCY, 1908, p. 390.

1908 -- Final allowance to Henry Kohfeld

That a final appropriation to \$200 be allowed Brother Henry Kohfeld, and to consider it the termination of Conference (financial) support. GCY, 1908, p. 390.

1908 -- Support to Ramapatnam renewed

That, unless changed in the future, to appropriate \$100 annually for Ramapatnam since our native workers in India are trained there, and since we have supported this (seminary) in the past. GCY, 1908, p. 390.

1912 -- Note:

The 1912 Conference took place after the first three-year interim .

1912 -- Furlough for Anna Suderman and Katharina Schellenberg

That (due to climate, the difficulty of the work, the loneliness, the isolation -- which fatigue) the Sisters Anna Suderman and Katharina Schellenberg be invited to come home for furlough (even though they have not been in India seven years). GCY, 1912, pp. 434, 435.

1912 -- Children's allowance

That a children's allowance of \$100 per year be provided for every (missionary) child attending school; if inadequate, to permit the mission board to make the necessary adjustments (in the amount). GCY, 1912, p. 435.

1912 -- Land grant by feudal king in India

That the Conference accept the land offered as a donation by a feudal king in India for a mission station, and transmit to the king our greetings and our thanks. GCY, 1912, p. 436.

1919 -- Resolutions on foreign missions

(Although the minutes do not record a vote, apparently the recommendations by the committee on foreign missions listed in this paragraph were adopted): (a) That the missionaries in India receive a salary of \$1,000 per year during the first term, and \$1,200 during subsequent terms. Single sisters are to receive half this amount. (b) That children's allowance be continued

during furlough. (c) That this support stops with the age of 18. (d) That the salary of Brother and Sister Becker (Post Oak) be set at \$1,000. (e) That the India stations be subsidized as follows: Hughestown field, \$2,400; Nagarkurnool, \$2,400; Deverakonda, \$2,400; Wanaparthi, \$1,400; and after their return, Brother and Sister (F.A.) Janzen, \$2,000; the school conducted by Sister Hanneman, \$2,500; Brother and Sister Voth, \$1,000; Brother and Sister Bergthold, \$1,500; Brother and Sister Janzen, \$400; for medical work to Sister Schellenberg, \$400; to Sister Wall, \$400; for Wanaparthi, \$200; for new buildings, as needed: for interpreter at Indiahoma, \$50; for a visitation tour at Indiahoma, according to need. (f) That as in previous years so in the future, the committee be allowed to meet unforeseen costs. GCY, 1919, pp. 477, 478.

1912 -- Regarding obligations toward the Bartel mission

That the Conference not grant permission for brethren to obligate themselves through voting privileges in the Association of the (China) Bartel Mission, nor does the Conference grant permission to collect funds (for the same) in the churches. To brethren and sisters who wish to make personal contributions for this cause, it is not denied. GCY, 1912, p. 445.

1912 -- Regarding the F. J. Wiens (China) mission

That in the light of the demands of our (M.B.) missions, we are not able to accept Brother F. J. Wiens, and want to allow the matter to rest another three years. GCY, 1912, p. 446.

1912 -- Solicitations by outsiders

That with reference to collecting funds on the part of outsiders (of the Conference) visitors, that all such collectors apply to the foreign missions committee, present their credentials, and seek to obtain a recommendation, before they are permitted

to collect funds in our churches. GCY, 1912, p. 446

1915 -- Children's support during furlough

That (missionary) children, beginning with the age of seven, be supported at the rate of \$50 per year during furlough time in the homeland. GCY, 1915, p. 453.

1915 -- B. F. Wiens accepted for service in India

That Brother and Sister B. F. Wiens (be accepted as missionaries and) be sent to India. GCY, 1915, p. 455.

1912 -- Note:

It was explained that the (advisory) Mission Board (Verwaltungskomitee) is now especially charged to administer the mission endowment fund, and support the Mission Board in its responsibilities. GCY, 1912, p. 436.

1919 -- Engagement of new missionaries

That Brother and Sister J. H. Lohrenz and Sister Helena L. Warkentin be sent to India as soon as possible. GCY, 1919, p. 478.

1919 -- P. V. Balzers

That Brother Balzer be given an opportunity to become acquainted in our churches. GCY, 1919, p. 478.

1919 -- South China mission

That the Conference accept the (south) China field served by Brother and Sister F. J. Wiens as a General M.B. Conference mission, and them as M. B. Conference missionaries, and send out two single sisters to assist in the work. GCY, 1919, pp. 479 and 481.

1919 -- Compensation to missions treasurer and secretary

That the treasurer (of the missions committee) receive an honorarium of \$100, and the secretary of \$200 per year. GCY, 1919, p. 480.

1919 -- Two single sisters accepted for China service

That two single sisters be sent to China, and that the other sisters do not consider

themselves rejected, but be active in our homeland. GCY, 1919, p. 481.

1919 -- Acceptance of Helena Heppner and Tina Kornelsen

That Sister Helena Heppner be sent out (to China) as nurse, and Sister Tina Kornelsen as teacher. GCY, 1919, p. 481.

1919 -- Delaying additional appointments

That the other sisters who have applied namely, Anna M. Hiebert, Minneapolis; Anna Suderman and Sophie Richert, California; be sent out as soon as the Conference recognizes a need for it, and as soon as the committee finds open doors for dispatching them. GCY, 1919, p. 481.

1919 -- Accepting the J. S. Dicks

That Brother and Sister J. S. Dick acquaint themselves in our churches, and after that be sent out to China. GCY, 1919, p. 481.

1919 Note:

The mission board reported that Brother and Sister B. F. Wiens, who had been accepted for India in 1915, were now being considered for service in China. The Wienses hesitated somewhat.

The Conference took note of this, and passed the following resolution: An encouraging word to Brother B. F.

Wiens That Brother Wiens calmly continue his service which has become dear to him (on the staff) at Tabor College, that he remain of firm confidence, preserve reliance on God, and that the Lord open the doors for him for service on the mission field of his preference. GCY, 1919, p. 481.

1919 -- Churches to ordain and equip outgoing missionaries

The Conference recommends, that the home churches of missionaries who are to be sent out to the mission field, ordain them and to equip them for the mission ministry. GCY, 1919, p. 482.

1919 -- Appeal for acceptance by Africa mission

(In reply to A. A. Janzen's request to the Conference to accept the Congo field, it was ruled) That the Conference send hearty greetings to Brother and Sister A. A. Janzen, and (the Conference) wishes them God's rich blessings in their ministry. If the Lord should open additional ways and send means, the acceptance of the Africa work could later be taken into consideration. GCY, 1919, p. 483.

1919 -- Cable to F. J. Wiens, China

That a cable be dispatched to Brother and Sister F. J. Wiens informing them that their mission in China has been accepted as a Conference endeavor. (J. W. Wiens, treasurer, will send the message). CCY, 1919, pp. 485, 486.

1919 -- Vacation for Indiahoma missionaries

That the Conference grants a short vacation for recuperation to our Indiahoma missionaries. GCY, 1919, p. 486.

1919 -- Home for missionary children

(In regard to the matter of establishing a mission home for children of missionaries, the Conference ruled) That the Conference charges the mission committee to initiate efforts in this matter. GCY, 1919, p. 486. Note: Because of the three-year Conference interim, more responsibility for decisions was placed upon the committees and boards. Beginning with 1919 and following, the Conference began to rely more upon recommendations from the mission committee, also called mission board, for its resolutions. Many details of operational nature that in former years had been worked out on the Conference floor, were becoming responsibility of the mission board. The mission board presents recommendations accepted by the Conference.

1921 -- Report of mission receipts in Canada

(a) That we request Brother J. M. Elias (then, together with W. J. Bestvater) provisional treasurer of foreign missions receipts in Canada) to send in his complete report, and to have it added to the report of the General Conference foreign missions treasury. (b) That we convey our gratitude to the Brethren Bestvater and Elias through our treasurer (J. W. Wiens) for their service of keeping financial records (of mission funds received in Canada). GCY, 1921, p. 17.

1921 -- Assistant treasurer elected for Canada

(a) That the Conference elect a brother in Canada who receives mission funds in Canada, and remits them monthly to the General Conference missions treasurer, in order that these together with the rest of the mission receipts can be published monthly in the *Zionsbote*. (b) That Brother John M. Elias of Winkler, Manitoba, be elected to serve as treasurer for Canada. GCY, 1921, pp. 24, 25.

1921 -- Resolutions regarding foreign missions arising from recommendations by the Missions Committee

(a) That if expansions in missions is not possible at the present, the Conference nevertheless is of the opinion that the extent of the work at present not be reduced. (b) That an increase in contributions will still be necessary, and that the delegates encourage their churches for lively support of foreign missions. (c) That the suggestion by Brother N. N. Hiebert be recommended, to print an annual booklet on foreign missions, as a means to stimulate mission activity. (d) That prayer meetings, Bible study, and special Sundays for gathering mission funds be promoted. (e) That the Conference is of the conviction that if we really want to, we can do still more for foreign missions, than we have done thus far. GCY, 1921, p. 21.

1921 -- Acceptance of the P. V. Baiters

That Brother (and Sister) P. V. Belter be accepted for missionary service and be sent out as soon as means are available (to India). GCY, 1921, p. 25.

1921 -- Acceptance of Paulina Foote

That Sister Paulina Foote be accepted as teacher for missionary children in China, as well as for other mission work. GCY, 1921, p. 26.

1921 -- Effort to increase the mission endowment fund

That the Conference delegates encourage the increase of the (mission endowment) fund-notes in that their local church is encouraged to choose members for the administrative committee (Verwaltungskomitee) according to necessity, and report this to N. N. Hiebert, the secretary, in order that the list of the administrative committee members can appear in the Conference yearbook. The duty of the administrative committee is to increase the (mission endowment) fund. GCY, 1921, pp. 26, 27.

1921 -- Needs at Indiahoma

That the matter (of supplying equipment and repairs for Indiahoma) be left to the discretion of the mission committee. GCY, 1921, p. 30.

1921 -- The matter of a mission home left to mission board

That the provision of a mission home for missionaries returning for furlough, and for the rearing of their children, be left to the Mission Board to be dealt with according to best judgment. GCY, 1921, p. 31.

1921

Note: At this time the Mission Board consisted of nine members, with a staggered term. Three were elected for 3 years, three for 6 years, and three for 9 years. The officers of the board, chairman, assistant chairman, secretary and treasurer, formed the mission committee (an executive

committee), charged with all operational administration. GCY, 1921, p. 76.

1921 -- Greetings to all missionaries

That greetings with 1 John 1:3-7, be sent to all missionaries through Brother N. N. Hiebert. GCY, 1921, p. 31.

1924 -- Recommended budget for 1924-1925

(The mission committee presented a budget for the year, October 1, 1924 to October 1, 1925, which had been examined by the Mission Board (Missions-Direktorium), and which was apparently accepted by the Conference. GCY, 1924, pp. 28, 29, 30.

1924 -- Sending new workers to China

That (since the death of Missionary B. F. Wiens left a vacancy in China) the Mission Board be charged to look around for a brother, or a couple, to fill this vacancy, and when found, to have them visit the churches according to possibility, before going out (to China). GCY, 1924, p. 30.

1924 -- Mission jubilee offerings

(After a number of churches reported that they had observed a mission jubilee festival and at that occasion gathered a jubilee offering, it was decided) That we recommend that those churches which have not yet gathered a mission-jubilee offering, also do so soon after the Conference, and that all these offerings flow into the general foreign missions treasury. GCY, 1924, pp. 30, 31.

1924 -- Suggestion for a 50th jubilee commemoration of the organization of the Conference of the M. B. Church of North America in 1878

(After a reminder from the floor that 1928 will mark the 50th year since the founding of the Conference in 1878, it was decided) That the chairman (of the Conference) appoint a committee which later (at this session of the Conference) bring back a recommendation as to the manner in which we celebrate the 50th jubilee (in 1928), as well as the 400th year since the rise of

Mennonitism, and how to invest the offerings gathered in that connection. The matter was tabled until the next Conference (in 1927). GCY, 1924, p. 31.

1924 -- All missionaries to be sent out through the Board of Foreign Missions

(In answer to the question as to who sends out missionaries, the Conference ruled) That all outgoing missionaries be sent out through the Board of Foreign Missions (and upon their approval). GCY, 1924, p. 32.

1924 -- Greetings to all missionaries

That greetings with I Cor. 15:58, be sent through the secretary (of Board of Missions) to all our missionaries. GCY, 1924, p. 35.

1924 -- Appeal from the (so-called Bartel) mission in China

(In reply to a petition sent in by the Secretary, Henry J. Maier, and the Superintendent, H. C. Bartel, requesting that the four Conferences: Krimmer Mennonite Brethren, Mennonite Brethren, Mission Church, and Defenseless Mennonite Brethren in Christ, elect a joint committee constituted of 2 or 3 representatives from each conference, to assume the joint administrative and financial responsibility and furnish the mission personnel, for the (Bartel) mission "on the basis on which it was once begun by the Lord," the Conference decided) That we send the brethren and sisters of the respective mission greetings and wish them God's blessings, but that we cannot enter into additional obligations. GCY, 1924, pp.35,36.

1924 -- Field visit to India and China

(Regarding a field visit to India and China suggested by the South China (Fukien province) missionaries, sent in by missionary F. J. Wiens, it was decided) (a) That the churches take this matter into consideration, and send their views to the secretary of the mission committee; (b) that at the same time the respective church indicate what share it is willing to assume in

covering the expenses connected therewith; (c) that the Mission Board then make a decision in the matter accordingly.

GCY, 1924, pp.3639.

1927 -- Mission treasurer's report approved

That the treasurer's report of receipts and disbursements be approved. GCY, 1927, p. 23.

1927 -- Vacation for A. J. Beckers

That Brother and Sister A. J. Becker be granted a vacation of two months, and that \$75.00 per month be allowed during the vacation for a substitute. GCY, 1927, p. 30

1927 -- Resolutions regarding the South China M. B. Mission

(a) That the Conference reimburse the missionaries (in China who were robbed) to the full amount of money and property lost. (b) That Brother and Sister J. S. Dick and Sister Tina Kornelsen be returned to the field as soon as the (mission) committee deems it advisable, and it is possible for them. (c) That, under the prevailing circumstances, we approve the return to the homeland of Brother and Sister F. J. Wiens. (d) That we approve the return to the homeland of Sister Susie Richert as soon as her term expires, but that she may remain on the field if she desires. GCY, 1927, p. 30.

1927 -- Resolutions covering India mission

(a) That the repairs for the vacation bungalow (in the hills) be paid from the (mission) treasury. (b) That the building program: sisters' bungalows, for Deverakonda, \$3,000, for Nagarkurnool, \$3,000, for Shamshabad, \$3,000; for the station Kalvakurty, \$5,000; for a Bible school at Shamshabad, \$4,000. (c) That for six years \$3,500 be paid out annually for building purposes. (d) That a printed annual report about the work in India be approved, and that the cost be

advanced from the (mission) treasury. (e) That the Conference grant the J. H. Pankratzes the wish to remain in America for a period of years, and if possible, return to India later. (f) That the Conference joyfully responds to the sacrificial willingness of the J. H. Voths to return to India and recommends their going as soon as possible. GCY, 1927, pp. 30, 31.

1927 -- Pension fund

(In reply to a recommendation from the mission committee that a pension fund be started for the support of retiring missionaries, the Conference decided) (a) That the mission committee work out a plan according to which the accumulation of a fund can be effected, and to present it at the next (1930) Conference. (b) This motion was amended as follows: That the plan (to be worked out) by the committee, be sent to the churches (for consideration and reaction), and if approved by them, to authorize the Mission Board to start with the gathering of the fund. GCY, 1927, pp. 31, 32.

1927 -- Greetings to all missionaries

That greetings and congratulations be sent by letter to all missionaries with the Word of the Lord: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). GCY, 1927, p. 33.

1927 -- A word of comfort

That as Conference we send a greeting and a benedictory good wish to the older Brother and Sister H. Richert, and to Brother and Sister Aaron Janzen who each have lost a child (through death) on the mission field. GCY, 1927, p. 33.

1927 -- Africa mission

That the Conference take the question of accepting the Africa field to our churches for consideration; to assure the Africa workers, Brother and Sister Aaron A. Janzen, of our goodwill; and to permit them to visit our churches and receive offerings

for the Africa mission. GCY, 1927, pp. 33 and 35.

1927 -- Recommendations of mission committee

That the recommendations and procedure of the missions committee (regarding budget, missionary salaries and children's allowance, operational expenses and decisions) which are in accordance with the resolutions of the Conference and of the Mission Board, be accepted. GCY, 1927, pp. 32 and 84, 85.

1930

Note: The Mission Board (*Missionsdirektorium*) still consists of nine members elected by the Conference. The missions committee consists of the five officers, chairman, assistant chairman, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer. The Canadian treasurer also attends committee meetings. Resolutions on foreign missions by the Conference are now practically all based upon recommendations by the missions committee.

1930 -- Regarding furloughs and final allowance of support

That missionaries who return for furlough for the first time, not receive over eighteen months' furlough with pay; and such as return for the second and third time, not receive over three years of furlough with pay. This arrangement is also to apply to those who discontinue (mission) service. GCY, 1930, p. 28.

1930 -- Home for missionaries

(a) That the Mission Board be authorized to purchase or acquire one or more homes which can be made available for residence to retiring missionaries, or if unoccupied, to missionaries on furlough. (b) To gather special contributions for this purpose ...and that loans from the mission endowment fund be used in case special contributions are slow, so as not to delay the implementation of the plan. GCY, 1930, pp. 28, 29.

1930 -- Acceptance of Sister Catharine Reimer

That, upon the recommendation of the Mission Board, Sister Catharine Reimer be accepted for mission service (as nurse) in India. GCY, 1930, p. 29.

1930-- Administration of (south) China work left to missions committee and Board.

(After H. W. Lohrenz, chairman of the missions committee, had explained how the committee had found it necessary to make various changes in the [South] China work because of changed situation there, and asked what the Conference might wish to do [in China] in the future under prevailing circumstances, the Conference decided) That we approve what the (mission) committee and the Mission Board have done, and that because of the still constantly changing situation (in China) we have full confidence and leave the entire matter of regulation and decision in regard to the China work to them (the mission committee and Board.) GCY, 1930, p. 29.

1930 -- Honorarium to chairman and secretary

That the chairman and secretary of the mission committee each be allowed a remuneration of \$250.00 per year for their service. GCY, 1930, p. 31.

1930 -- Representation in the (advisory) Board of Missions

That the list of members in the (advisory) Board of Missions (Verwaltungskomitee) be prepared during the Conference... that churches not represented, be represented by other churches in the nomination of representatives and that it is of great importance that each local church have at least one representative in the Board. GCY, 1930, p. 31

1930 -- Africa Mission

(A. A. Janzen, founder) (Since the Conference was hesitant about its ability at this time to assume additional mission

obligations, it was decided) (a) That the committee which has been charged to study important questions, also study this one and bring back a recommendation to the Conference floor. (b) That the secretary of the Conference send greetings to the missionaries and the native Christians with 1 Cor. 15:58. GCY, 1930, p. 33.

(c) (The committee under (a) later reported the following recommendation which was accepted by the Conference): That we (as Conference) take a position of goodwill towards the missionaries and the mission, and that we will gladly transmit contributions for this cause, but that we do not see that the time for accepting the (Kafumba) station and the responsibility (for the mission) has come. GCY, 1930, p. 43.

1933 -- Resolutions regarding India personnel.

(a) That Sister Mary Wall, whose traveling funds are on hand, again be sent to the mission field in India. (b) That since Sister Anna Hanneman's health is not yet completely restored, the time of her return (to India) be left to the Mission Board. (c) That in principle the return to India of the P. V. Baiters be approved. Since the question of Sister Belter's health has not been fully cleared, the final decision of their return be left to the Mission Board. GCY, 1933, p. 25.

1933 -- Resolutions regarding China (south field) personnel

That the Conference meet the wish of Brother and Sister F. J. Wiens and to prayerfully support them in their purpose to go back to China ... and extend to them 1 Cor. 15: 58, (for a farewell). GCY, 1933, p. 25.

1933 -- Regarding personnel on the North China (Bartel) field

(a) That the Mission Board together with the business committee prepare a recommendation to the Conference regarding the sending to China of Sisters

Paulina Foote and Helen Heppner, and Brother and Sister P. P. Balzer, since their case is outside the jurisdiction of the Conference (being they are workers of the Bartel mission), and because thus far we have not been able to grant them support out of the foreign missions treasury. GCY, 1933, p. 25.

(b) Accepted recommendation: (1) That in view of the lack of clarity regarding the situation in Borneo and China, and in view of the limited finances, the Conference would like (nevertheless) to express its respect and interest in their willingness to enter service (in China). But to send them out and support them financially is not yet possible, and therefore advises to wait and leave the matter to the Mission Board who will consult further with the sisters regarding the situation in Borneo. (2) That the Conference thanks Brother and Sister P. P. Baltzer for their cordial and brotherly report. The Conference values them and their ministry and wishes them God's rich blessings. In view of the empty treasury it grieves us, that a specific sum of support cannot be appropriated, since it is also policy of the Conference to supply its own missionaries and fields for which it is responsible, first. Should the dear Lord in his grace grant all of us better times, the Conference would then be able to deal more generously. GCY, 1933. p. 46.

1933 -- A finance committee to assist the mission (executive) committee

(On the basis of a recommendation by the temporary business committee of the Conference elected to examine the administrative structure of foreign missions with a view of suggesting some improvements, the Conference decided) (a) That in view of the difficult times present (1933), the Conference elect a finance committee of three brethren for three years to assist the mission (executive) committee by way of

advice and in the loaning of endowment funds. (The Conference elected H.A. Martens, Peter Suderman, and J. D. Wiebe). (b) That this committee need not necessarily be constituted of Mission Board members. (c) That all loans from the endowment fund be approved by this finance committee. (d) That the mission treasurer and the committee prepare an annual (financial) report for the Mission Board and the Conference. GCY, 1933, pp. 27 and 46.

1933 -- Honorarium to officers (amount)

That the chairman (of the Mission Board) and the secretary each receive an honorarium of \$150, and the treasurer \$250 per year. GCY, 1933, p. 27.

1933 -- Establishment of the home for missionaries abandoned

(After the Secretary N. N. Hiebert explained that in view of the uncertainty and difficulty of [economic and political] conditions, the mission committee would advise to drop for the time being, the plan of establishing a home for retiring missionaries. To this the Conference agreed.) GCY, 1933, p. 28.

1936 -- First report by H. W. Lohrenz who had now served as treasurer and keeper of the current mission fund records for three years.

That since Brother Lohrenz has had much work in continuing and revising the bookkeeping records, which is worthy of Conference recognition, an adequate remuneration in the amount of that of the treasurer (\$250) be allowed him. GCY, 1936, p. 23.

1936 -- Resolutions regarding India

(a) Budget and allowances. (That the following recommendation of the mission committee be adopted): To accept the missionary budget with the following changes. (1) To set up a budget dating from January 1, to January 1, but the time of the annual financial report (to the Conferences) remains October 1, to October 1. (2) That the salaries of missionaries be raised \$100 per

year, single sisters \$50. For missionaries on furlough the rent for housing is to come out of their salary. The salary (during furlough) to be 4/5 instead of 2/3 as heretofore, of the rate on the field. This amounts to \$500 per year for a family, and \$400 for single sisters.

(3) The children's allowance on the field is raised to \$50 per year per child below seven, and \$150 from seven to eighteen. While on furlough the rates are \$40 and \$125. (4) The total (financial) appropriation for India is to be divided among the stations with a specific smaller amount to be for operational expenses, and the larger amount for subsidy for evangelization. ... Special contributions are to subsidize evangelization. If these do not cover the amount provided in the field budget, the balance is taken out of the general treasury; if they exceed the set amount, the surplus may be used for improvements or extension of the work on the respective station. (5) Missionaries are requested to compile their annual financial reports in terms of dollars, and also include special gifts that were sent them above receipts from the treasury.

(b) India personnel. (1) That Brother and Sister J. J. Dick, who reached our India field as fugitives (from Russia) and whose service has been acceptable, who are members of the Coaldale church and have a good standing ...be accepted for full missionary service with full salary and children's allowance beginning January 1, 1937. (2) That upon recommendation of the workers in India Sister Helen Warkentin be invited to take her furlough. The return for furlough of Sister Katharine Schellenberg who has served uninterruptedly for ten years was considered. In a letter to the chairman of the Board she, however, expressed the preference to postpone her furlough somewhat. (3) The return to India of the J. A. Wiebes was approved. In principle the return for further service of other

missionaries on furlough was approved as soon as their health permits. (4) The mission committee recommended the preparation for service of Brother and Sister G. W. Peters, Sister Susie Warkentin and other young people.

(c) Expansion of India field. (1) That the purchase of Mahbubnagar from the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society be approved and a consideration of \$2,500 be offered. (2) In case this does not materialize, to appropriate \$1,500 for buildings at Janumpet, payable in three annual installments of \$500. (3) That in case this meets with the approval of the India missionaries to sell the Hughestown property as soon as an acceptable price is obtainable ... and to utilize the proceeds for further building ...or for purchase of Mahbubnagar and for building up the stations of Janumpet and Kalvakurty ... likewise a small residence can be acquired or built in Hyderabad (city) for a rest home for missionaries who come there (for business). How to utilize the balance of the proceeds can be arranged with the mission committee. GCY, 1936, pp. 24, 25, 26, 28.

(d) That the mission committee be given free hand in the imcompleted negotiations with the India missionaries regarding children's allowances. GCY, 1936, p. 28.

1936 -- India resolutions

(a) That the salary of the A. J. Beckers be raised from \$700 to \$800. (b) That \$400 be appropriated to make up the sum of \$600 for a new chapel for the Mexican work which has grown out of the India work, and that the \$400 also come by way of special gifts. (c) That \$35 monthly be allowed for the support of the Mexican preacher, Gonzales, and \$5.00 for gasoline: one half to be taken from special gifts and one half from the general treasury. (d) To raise the allowance for an assistant on the (Post Oak) station from \$200 to \$250. (e) That

three months of vacation be granted the Beckers during the next three years. GCY, 1936, pp. 26, 27.

1936 -- Resolution regarding (South) China field

That on the basis of a letter from Missionary F. J. Wiens ... and in consultation with many of the leading brethren of the churches ... while opportunities for fruitful ministry in India are now great ... which cannot be said for a planned ministry in China at this time ... we accept this as a sign from the Lord to strengthen our work in India and occupy a waiting position regarding the endeavor in China. GCY, 1936, pp. 27, 28.

1936 -- Resolutions regarding (Congo) Africa

(In reply to a letter from Brother and Sister A. A. Janzen and the Sisters Martha Hiebert and Kathryn Willems... asking to come under Conference administration and support, it was decided): (a) That we thank the missionaries for the letter and wish them God's blessing in the work. (b) But, that the Conference is not able to meet their request, because according to latest information, the Belgian government requires (1) that there be at least four (missionary) men on the field. (2) That the mission be incorporated in Belgium as well as in America. (3) That a considerable amount (of money) be deposited (as surety) for each missionary. (4) That accepting of the (Kafumba) Congo mission is therefore not within the reach of the conference. GCY, 1936, pp. 27, 28.

1936 -- Traveling secretary for missions

That the matter of providing a deputation secretary for foreign missions be referred to the Mission Board with the assignment to bring a recommendation to the Conference. GCY, 1936, p. 29.

1936 -- Regarding pension for returned missionaries

(a) That the Mission Board be requested to work out a recommendation regarding

pension for returned (and retired) missionaries. (b) That the Mission Board elect five or six brethren, present them to the Conference, and together with these, prepare a recommendation. (The following nine brethren were presented: A. P. Epp, P. E. Nickel, H. C. Flaming, H.E. Wiens, M. A. Kroeker, J. G. Wiens, D. C. Eitzen, J. A. Kroeker, Jacob Lepp). GCY, 1936. p. 29. (c) Pension recommendation: (The Mission Board together with the nine authorized brethren presented the following): (1) That missionary families entitled to pension be allowed \$500 per year from the foreign missions treasury, With the provision that they visit the churches according to possibility in the interests of foreign missions: that each church gather an offering at such visits: and that the traveling expenses be paid out of the (general foreign missions) treasury. (2) That the Conference elect a committee of three brethren, who, together with the mission committee, work out a plan as to how the funds for pension can be gathered, and then carry out the plan. (3) That in order that the mission treasury not lack funds, every local church raise one offering for this purpose each year during the next three years. GCY, 1936, p. 33. (d) That the delegates from Buhler, Hillsboro, Ebenfeld and Oklahoma, each nominate a brother to be presented to the Conference for approval...and that these brethren, together with the mission committee are then to prepare a pension plan and report it to the Conference. GCY, 1936, p. 34.

1936

Note: In line with the general plan of the 1936 constitution, adopted in that year, a mission board of five members was created. The Conference elected a Board of Foreign Missions of five members. This Board organized itself as follows: P. R. Lange, chairman, H. S. Voth, assistant chairman, H. W. Lohrenz, Secretary-Treasurer, J. H. Pankratz, recording secretary, J. J.

Wiebe, member, and J. M. Elias, assistant treasurer for Canada. GCY, 1936, p. 72.

1939

Note: By 1939, the Conference depended almost entirely upon the judgment and recommendation of the Board of Foreign Missions in matters pertaining to the expanding foreign missions program. Budgets and operational details presented by the Board were adopted as a whole. Missionary candidates were accepted by the Board after personal references had been obtained and after the local church of the candidate had given approval, their sending to the field was, however, reported to the Conference. The function of the (advisory) Mission Board (Verwaltungskomitee) now had shifted completely to that of stewardship and promotion of Conference funds. Questions of principle, accepting new mission fields, and major changes in the missionary endeavor were regulated by separate Conference resolutions. The growing extent of the Conference mission program, the necessity of the times for making prompt administrative decisions in dealing with governments and foreign countries, the greater responsibilities demanded of administering boards, made it imperative to concentrate the administration of foreign missions in a Board which, though responsible to the Conference, nevertheless needed to enjoy sufficient authority to give executive direction to the great work of foreign missions the Lord entrusted to our brotherhood. It is for this development that the nature of Conference resolutions changed in subsequent years.

1939 -- Field visit to India discussed

(In reply to an invitation by the India missionaries to visit that field, the Conference decided) That upon the recommendation of the Board of Foreign Missions, on account of lack of funds, and the dangers connected with the war, an

official visit to the India field does not seem possible at this time. But the Conference thanks the missionaries for the invitation, and gives them prospects that in the future, after named obstacles have been removed, the Conference may be able to comply with their wish. GCY, 1939, p. 15.

1939 -- Mission budget in summary

(a) That the following budget be accepted:

Indiahoma	\$1,780.00
India	
Salaries of missionaries	\$12,450.00
Children's allowances	2,163.75
Station maintenance	1,275.00
Evangelism	4,500.00
Schools -- education	2,550.00
Medical	937.00
Miscellaneous	<u>2,260.00</u>
	26,136.25
Mission administration	
Travel	4,300.00
Miscellaneous	<u>250.00</u>
	4,550.00
Pension	<u>900.00</u>
	33,366.25

(b) That \$1,000.00 be appropriated for the purchase of the hospital at Mahbubnagar. This property joins the compound bought from the Baptists, but was not a part of our earlier purchase. The purchase is recommended by the India missionaries. GCY, 1939, pp. 23, 24.

1939 -- Africa mission accepted

That it be decided in principle, that the Conference accept the Congo (Kafumba), Africa mission (A. A. Janzen, founder). GCY, 1939, pp. 23, 24.

1939 -- Administration of China mission accepted

That the Conference decides to accept the administration and operation of the (South) China (F. J. Wiens) field and operate it on the basis that will be worked out by the (Board of Foreign Missions) committee. GCY, 1939, p. 26.

1943

Note: In 1943 the chairman of the Board announced to the Conference that the Board of Foreign Missions had elected one of its members (H. W. Lohrenz) to serve as executive secretary and treasurer to assume full-time duties in this work as recommended by the Committee of Reference and Counsel. The executive secretary then gave a full report on the status of the M.B. Mission work, GCY, 1943, pp. 8-16.

1943

Note two: This being the time of World War II, the Board of Foreign Missions made an appraisal of the situation and presented to the Conference a report of its findings and made some recommendations which were accepted by the Conference with one modification:

1943 -- Statements and recommendations concerning foreign mission work

That with gratitude to God for blessings in past years and in complete dependence on Him for the future, the Board of Foreign Missions submits to the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America the following statements and recommendations for the continuance of this important ministry, subject to such revisions by the Board as may become necessary by changing conditions and new developments.

1. General statements and recommendations
1. *Missionaries on the fields.* We give due recognition to the faith and courage with which our brethren and sisters have continued at their posts of duty on the various fields in spite of existing and

ever increasing dangers. Our undivided support in intercession and other ways is pledged anew to them and the great cause in which they serve as our representatives. The Conference sends greetings to them in the words expressed by David in Psalm 2:8, "The Lord is their strength, and He is the saving strength of His people."

2. *Missionaries at home on furlough.* (a) We approve the return of missionaries who have come home for various reasons, and appreciate the services which they are rendering so willingly and efficiently in our churches. (b) We hope and pray that it may become possible for all, or at least for some of them, that they can go back and resume the work on their respective fields at an early date. Where this is impossible for various causes, such as the general world conditions, insufficient health of individuals, or obligations to immediate families, we invite these workers to activities here at home until such time when they can return to their stations in the foreign fields.

3. *New missionaries.* Realizing the need of strengthening the work on all fields, we shall continue to pray the Lord of the harvest that He send forth more laborers. We invite our young people whom God is calling into this blessed ministry and whom He has prepared with the proper qualifications for the work, that they give first consideration to our own field, and we assure them that their applications will receive a sympathetic hearing.

4. *The fields.* Bearing in mind the words of Jesus, "The field is the world," we would point to the following fields as offering wonderful opportunities. Some have been opened and partly occupied, others are appealing with increasing interest. (a) The great and productive field in India with more than 1,450,000 people, where whole villages are now turning from heathenism to Christianity, (b) China. Though Shanghang is still cut off and temporarily

inaccessible, the western provinces contain wide areas that are entirely unoccupied by Protestant missions. (c) Africa with the two fields in the Belgian Congo; Kafumba and Bololo with a combined population of nearly half a million. (d) South America. Although we can not yet direct our young people to a definite field on this great continent, we are asking God for definite guidance if He wishes that we enter and occupy a field in that country. (e) Opportunities in our land, such as the work among the Indians and Mexicans, neglected districts in the great Northwest, Jewish and Chinese and centers in our great cities, settlements of people of Russian nationality, etc.

5. *Financial support.* God has been very generous in blessing us in material ways as well as "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." In response to this we wish to express our gratitude by bringing to Him the thank-offerings that are commensurate with the blessings which we have received. Hence the following remarks and recommendations. (a) Although some of our missionaries are now at home on furlough, let us remember that our obligations on the fields have not diminished but rather increased. The small savings in reduced salaries are more than counterbalanced by heavier traveling expenses.

Be it resolved therefore that we encourage our churches, the various organizations within them, and the individual friends to continue their contributions to this work and increase them wherever possible.

The opportunities of entering new fields present additional reasons why we should continue to do our best. (b) As time goes on, the demands on the "pension treasury," started in 1936, become heavier.

Be it resolved therefore that we remind our churches that this is a permanent part of our foreign mission work, and that we

encourage our Sunday schools to contribute regularly one offering each month to this purpose. (c) We still remember the depression which followed upon the World War of 1914-1918. At that time it became necessary to reduce the modest salary allowances of our missionaries twice 10 percent and the appropriations for the work on the field 5 percent at one stroke.

Even then our treasurer found it impossible on one occasion to send any appropriations for a whole quarter so that the missionaries found it necessary to divide among themselves the few special gifts that had been received.

It is humanly unavoidable that a more serious depression will follow the cessation of present hostilities. We as a Board therefore place before the Conference this question: How can we prepare to meet the depression that will certainly come? To us it seems advisable to encourage more liberal giving while we have the means, and to form a sinking fund with the surplus by laying up a reserve and investing it in government securities. (d) We appreciate the efforts of our missionaries to bring about uniformity of appropriations between the different mission stations on any one field. This is in the interest of sound mission policy.

Be it resolved that we endorse and approve the principles as expressed on this subject in the minutes of our missionaries in India at their 57th missionary conference held at Wanaparty from December 29, 1942, to January 1, 1943.

This resolution is interpreted in the light of the following statements. First, we declare our intention and willingness to support all stations of any one field, as well as the different fields, with the same liberality according to the recognized needs and our ability. Secondly, we reaffirm our established policy of respecting the expressed wishes of all contributors and will

continue to assign all special gifts to the purposes which have been designated. Thirdly, the portions of the specified amounts which are not covered by assigned gifts will be supplied from the general mission treasury. We as a Board believe that the application of these principles is fair to all missionaries and respects the rights and interests of the contributors.

6. *Relief work on mission fields.* Famine conditions exist today in countries in which our brethren and sisters are engaged in mission work. These will become more severe in the years immediately before us. The suffering of people of other colors and other languages move us to deep sympathy and produce in us a willingness to send relief. The board wishes to remind the churches that this has always been an integral part of our work, and desires that relief funds intended for sufferers on these mission fields be sent to their destination through our treasury for foreign missions for final distribution by our own brethren and sisters. This will differentiate clearly between work on the mission fields and work on fields that are entered definitely and primarily for relief purposes.

7. *Affiliation of mission interests.* The problem of affiliation of mission interests presents itself in two distinct phases. (a) There exists in this country an organization known as the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. One hundred twenty-three mission societies hold membership in it. Affiliation became necessary in 1919 because permission to enter British territories for mission purposes could be obtained only through the Committee of Reference and Counsel, a subdivision of this organization. Our board has not entered into "constitutional" membership but maintains an "affiliated relationship."

The Board recommends that this "affiliation relationship" to the Foreign Mission Conference of North America be continued

and that the treasurer be authorized to pay the assessed contributions.

A new organization has just recently been formed which calls itself the National Association of Evangelicals. In its doctrinal position, this will undoubtedly be more sympathetic to our conception of the religious life. It is recommended that we observe developments and that we support the movement without definite affiliation. Among the services that may be derived through such an organization may be mentioned the following: (1) Representation before the government in matters of passports and visa; (2) assistance in obtaining transportation; (3) advice in making remittance of funds to foreign countries. The organization renders many other valuable services. (b) Eliminated.

II. The mission in Africa

1. The Conference instructed the Board of Foreign Missions and the Committee of Reference and Counsel in 1939 to work out a plan upon which mission work in Africa could be accepted. This has been done, and the plan was submitted to the churches through the *Zionsbote*. It contains certain principles which are of vital importance for this purpose. (a) The joint committee did not deem it advisable to look for an entirely new field but rather considered the two fields Kafumba and Bololo in Congo Belge upon which some of our brethren and sisters work who draw their main support from our churches. (I, 1.) (b) It was thought to be very essential on the one hand that there should be unrestrained willingness in the churches for such acceptance; and on the other hand these missions should have complete confidence in the Conference so that they would place themselves unconditionally under its supervision. (I, 7.) (c) The plan provides for the acceptance of both of these fields without discrimination although it was not thought necessary that this take place simultaneously. (II, 2.) (d) After

the acceptance has taken place, the mission will be supervised and cared for according to the stipulations in the constitution and the resolutions of the Conference. In supplying the stations with workers and material means, due care shall be exercised that this be done with adaptation to the conditions as they exist on the field. (III.)

2. *The Kafumba mission.* The missionaries of the Kafumba Mission, in a letter to the Board dated December 29, 1938, and signed by A. A. Janzen, Martha Hiebert, Kathryn Willems, Martha Manz and Anna Goertzen, petitioned that the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America take over this mission, and offered to transfer to the Conference unconditionally all rights and privileges thereof. In a letter of July 25, 1940, they reaffirmed this petition and offer on the basis of the plan prepared by the Board and the Committee of Reference and Counsel in their joint session of April 5, 1940, and the following days. On the basis of this petition, and in agreement with the aforesaid plan, the Board of Foreign Missions recommends: (a) that the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America accept as its own the Kafumba Mission in Congo Belge, Africa, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, and that it assume the full responsibility for the maintenance and further development thereof. (b) That the Conference accept as its missionaries to Africa those workers who now are laboring on that field or are at home on furlough, namely Brother Aaron A. and Sister Martha Janzen, Sister Kathryn Willems, and Sister Anna Goertzen.

3. *The Bololo mission.* The Africa Mission Society, through its Board of Directors, has presented to the Board of Foreign Missions several communications dated November, 1936, October, 1938, and March 11, 1943. In these they likewise petition that

the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America take over the Bololo Mission, and they declare further that they are willing to transfer the mission to the Conference under certain conditions. Or if this cannot be arranged satisfactorily, they ask for the establishment of a basis upon which they can function side by side with the existing mission organization of the Conference.

(A discussion followed. The following motion carried): That in view of the fact that the Conference delegation is not ready for a final vote on the motion (to accept the Bololo mission on the same basis and for the same purpose as the Kafumba Mission) under consideration ... the discussion discontinued here ... and resume the discussion and take a final vote on the motion tomorrow. GCY, 1943, pp. 21-25.

1943 -- Kafumba field accepted

(Next day) That in view of the fact that the financial support for the Kafumba field has largely come out of our circles, the Conference accept the Kafumba field in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Foreign Missions. GCY, 1943, p. 27.

1943 -- Acceptance of the Kafumba budget

That the \$5,500 budget for 1944 be accepted. (The Bololo budget was not ready for presentation. The matter was left to the mission board.) GCY, 1943, pp. 27, 28.

1943 -- Bololo held accepted

That the M.B. Conference of North America accept the Bololo mission from the African Mission Society and thereby take over full responsibility for this field. GCY, 1943, p. 27.

1943 -- Adoption of (document)

"Statements and recommendations concerning foreign mission work." (GCY, 1943, pp. 21-25)

That the document be accepted (by the Conference) with the elimination of point b under paragraph 7, (GCY, p. 24). GCY, 1943, p.

1943 -- India budget resolutions

That the following be accepted: (a) Salaries, married missionaries in service, \$1,000 first term; \$1,200 subsequent terms. Single workers one half that amount. On furlough, \$900. Single workers, one half that amount. Retiree missionaries, \$600. (b) Dearness allowance: Missionaries in service, \$200 (per year); those on furlough, \$125. (c) Children's support up to 6 years, \$40; 6 to 18, \$125 each. (d) Creation of an emergency fund of \$1,500 to cover unexpected occasions of illness, death, and unforeseen events. (e) Total for operational expenses on the India field, \$19,900. GCY, 1943, p. 26.

1943 -- Indianahoma budget

That \$3,750 be appropriated for the Indianahoma budget. GCY, 1943, pp. 26, 27.

1943 -- New (West) China field accepted

(a) That since the closing of the field at Shanghang where Brother and Sister F. J. Wiens labored for which the means are still on hand... which is a part of China not occupied by Japan ...and since it would not conflict with the reopening of the former field... the Conference open a new field in western China. (b) That Brother and Sister P. P. Balzer of Hillsboro, Kansas, be sent to western China as soon as the Lord leads and opens the way. GCY, 1943, p. 27.

1943 -- Work among Chinese on (U.S.) West Coast

That the Mission Board be empowered to give prayerful consideration to a field of missionary work among the Chinese on the Pacific coast and proceed as they feel the Lord leads. GCY, 1943, p. 27.

1943 -- Western Children's Mission (Canada)

(a) That we recommend the Western Children's Mission to our churches and in a

special way to our churches in Canada. (b) That we recommend the appropriation of \$500 out of the general mission treasury for the Western Children's Mission. GCY, 1943, p. 29.

1943 -- South American missions

That the Conference enter upon mission work in South America if the Lord opens the way. GCY, 1943, p. 29.

1943 -- Paraguay mission

(a) That the Conference enter into closer relationship, on the cooperative basis, with the Paraguay mission among the Lengua Indians in the Chaco, but (request) that that mission retain the responsibility for the administration. (b) That we (M.B. Conference) appropriate \$500 support for 1943. (c) That we encourage missionaries to go into that work. GCY, 1943, p. 29.

1943 -- Principles for evangelization on foreign fields

(a) That the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church has assumed the duty of bringing the Gospel of salvation to the heathen, in accordance with the command of Christ as given in Matthew 28: 19. (b) That our missionaries have endeavored to spread this Gospel and to make known the plan of God as manifested by God through Jesus Christ. (c) That all other phases of the missionary endeavor are subordinated to this main purpose and shall only serve to further the salvation of souls among the heathen. (d) That in accordance with the example as set by our Lord and Master, our missionaries also have sought access to the hearts of men through channels that were most accessible to them, namely: The children through instruction in schools, the sick through the channels of medical care in hospitals and the others through contacts on the streets and in the homes. (e) That the committee of world missions is convinced that the school and hospital work are important factors in the

program of evangelization. (f) That it is also our sacred duty to keep our God-sent workers physically fit for their duties by creating wholesome conditions for them. GCY, 1943, p. 72.

1945

Note: After the decease of Dr. H. W. Lohrenz on March 16, 1945, the Board of Foreign Missions, with the approval of the Committee of Reference and Counsel appointed A. E. Janzen, on April 15, 1945, to become acting executive secretary and treasurer. Janzen was elected into the Board of Missions by the Conference on November 25, 1945, and continued to serve as executive secretary and treasurer.

The new executive secretary-treasurer presented a report to the Conference on the state of M.B. Missions, on Africa, China, India, North America, and South America (GCY, 1945, pp. 9-16), a financial report covering the years 1943, 1944, 1945, (pp. 17, 18), and presented the recommendations by the Board for the next Conference interim (pp. 24-26).

1945 -- Paraguay Indian mission

That the Conference accept (full responsibility) for the Indian mission in Paraguay on the basis of the plan submitted to the various churches (by the Board of Missions) for consideration. GCY, 1945, p. 24.

1945 -- China mission

That the Conference accept the so-called Bartel Mission in China, both the old field in Shantung Province as well as the new field in Kansu Province; details for the operation of this work to be worked out by the Board of Foreign Missions together with Missionary H. C. Bartel and the officers of the China Mennonite Mission Society. GCY, 1945, p. 24.

1945 -- Africa mission extension

That the Conference purchase several (orphaned) stations if available near our fields, provided the work done on these

stations has been reasonably within our Confession of Faith and provided the acquisition of such stations will strengthen the field as a whole. GCY, 1945, p. 24.

1945 -- Brazil mission

That the Conference (a) accept the mission work started in Brazil (at Curitiba) by Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Unruh (of Dinuba) and supervise, support, and promote it together with the M.B. Churches in Brazil.

(b) Accept and support the Unruhs as duly appointed missionaries to South America, and (c) that the Board of Foreign Missions work out a plan on the basis of which the Brazil mission work can be operated. GCY, 1945, p. 24.

1945 -- Salaries of missionaries

(a) That the basic salaries of missionaries in Africa, India, North America remain the same, but that the allowance received while on furlough be raised to the same level received when at work on the field. (b) That the allowance for children up to six years inclusive be doubled (to \$100). (c) That in the allowance for children above seven years, the age be extended from 18 to 21 inclusive. (d) That the allowance for retired missionaries be raised proportionately to the allowance received by missionaries on furlough (to \$66.66 per couple per month). GCY, 1945, p. 25.

1945 -- Educational aid to missionary candidates

(a) That the Board of Trustees (of the Conference) work out a plan and create a fund which is available to help ministerial students as well as accepted candidates for missionary service to finance their education. (b) That during the interim in which the Board of Trustees is working out plans and creating a fund, the churches be asked to raise by a special collection or/and accept special gifts and send them to the treasurer of the Mission Board for the purpose of granting financial assistance

to acceptable missionaries now in school needing financial aid, and to encourage local churches to underwrite their missionary students through the Board of Foreign Missions. GCY, 1945, p. 25.

1945 -- Office building, (Conference)

(a) That the Conference provide an office building for Conference activities and for the fireproof storing of valuable Conference documents and literature at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000, to be located at Hillsboro, Kansas. (b) That in view of the pressing need to provide living quarters for missionaries on furlough or retired, and for missionary children while attending school, the Board of Foreign Missions recommends to the Conference the erection of a suitable building or buildings. (c) That the Conference go on record to encourage our brethren and sisters who in gratitude to the Lord feel led to do so, to leave gifts, legacies, and memorials for this purpose. GCY, 1945, pp. 25, 47 par.3.

1945 -- Mission budget

That the recommended budget be accepted with the provision that the Board of Foreign Missions have the liberty to make adjustments where deemed necessary:

Africa \$42,484.96;
China, \$20,668.80;
India, \$99,751.11;
North America -- Canada, \$6,586.96:
Indiahoma, \$5,851.63;
Lawton, \$2,937.28;
Los Angeles, \$1,839.68;
South America - Colombia, \$21,111.14;
Paraguay,\$6,734.20;
Pension treasury, \$2,583.34;
Administration, \$9,000.00.

Total budget for 1945 \$137,927.87.

Total for 1946, \$219,549.10.

GCY, 1945, pp. 25, 26.

1948 -- Report and financial statement, and greeting

That the report of the Executive Secretary and Treasurer of Foreign Missions be accepted: (a) General Survey, (b) Objectives, (c) Future outlook, (d) Financial report, (e) Budget of \$252,119, (f) That greetings be sent to all missionaries. GCY, 1948, pp. 13, 30, 38-39.

1948 -- Increase of budget in view of open doors

That in humble obedience to the great commission of our Lord and Master to go and disciple all nations, and in view of the open doors in foreign fields and in areas not yet touched with the saving Gospel, and recognizing that the Lord of the Harvest is still calling our young people into foreign mission service, and in order to keep the sacrifices for foreign missions abreast with the growth of the Mennonite Brethren Conference ... that during the next Conference interim of three years, the budget be advanced to \$275,000 annually. GCY, 1948, p. 39.

1948 -- Extension

That the previous motion ... include that any extension ordered by the Conference be automatically added to the budget. GCY, 1948, p. 39.

1948 -- Field visits

That in answer to repeated requests from the missionaries on the fields, and in order to promote the welfare of the entire work of foreign missions ...the Conference ... deems it advisable that same member of the Board of Foreign Missions visit our foreign mission fields in the near future. GCY, 1948, p. 39.

1948 -- 50th Jubilee of M.B. mission in India

That in this 50th year of our mission work in India, a jubilee program be held on the 31st of October (1948) in all of our churches with a jubilee offering, to commemorate the heroic and divinely inspired task of foreign

missions initiated by our faithful and mission-minded forefathers in 1898. GCY, 1948, pp. 39, 40.

1948 -- Japan M.B. mission authorized

That the Conference authorizes the Board of Foreign Missions to proceed to investigate the advisability of opening a mission in Japan. GCY, 1948, p. 40.

1951 -- Acceptance of 1951 reports on foreign missions

That the reports by the executive secretary and treasurer be accepted: (a) General, New Fields, Difficult and Closed Fields, China, Loss of Workers, Deputation Work in the Conference Churches, Survey Trip to the Mission Fields, Results on the Fields, Jubilee Celebration, Interest of the Home Churches. (b) The Fields: Africa, China, India, Japan, North America, Mexico, South America, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay. (c) Mission personnel. (d) Finances, Balance Sheets, Triennial Financial Statements, 1949, 1950, 1951. Budget of \$285,425. GCY, 1951 pp. 32-56.

1951 -- Renewed intercessory concern

That a renewed intercessory concern in and the implementation of a constant prayer ministry be made at home in behalf of extending the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in spiritual darkness. GCY, 1951, p. 56.

1951 -- Increase of contributions

That in view of a world situation which emphasizes the urgency to "work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work," the churches of the Conference strengthen their foreign missions offerings to a full \$300,000 annually during the next Conference interim. GCY, 1951, p. 56.

1951-- Pension treasury

That churches which are not using the five cents per month per Sunday School pupil plan, or have made some other provisions by means of which to gather the pension money, cover their pension participation by

one offering for this purpose once a year. GCY, 1951, pp. 56, 57.

1951 -- Spiritual work in Europe

That the spiritual work in Europe or any part of Europe designed to assist existing, or give rise to permanent (new) Mennonite Brethren congregations, be placed under the auspices of the Board of Missions, and that a certain annual appropriation be set aside in its budget for this purpose, and that gifts from churches or friends coming in for spiritual work of this nature in Europe be received to cover such appropriation. GCY, 1951, p. 57.

1951 -- Vote of gratitude

That the delegation expresses its gratitude to Brother A. E. Janzen, for his visit to the mission fields (India, Africa, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia). GCY, 1951, p. 57.

That the Conference thanks Brother H. K. Warkentin for visiting foreign mission fields at his own personal expense and for his contribution to the field in India (building a church for the nationals in Kalvakurty village). GCY, 1951, p. 58.

1951 -- Further board visits to mission fields

That the Board (of Missions) be granted the privilege to undertake further visits to the mission fields according to needs. GCY, 1951, p. 57.

1954 -- Acceptance of 1954 reports

(After a written triennial report was given by the executive secretary and treasurer [AEJ] as follows): (a) General, Growth of Believers in Numbers, Extended School Effort, New Fields, Regarding the Africa Missions, Missionary Children's School, Other Fields, Movement of Missionaries, Building Activity. (b) The Fields, Africa, Brazil, Colombia, India, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Indiahoma. (c) Conference Office Building. (d) Visits to Three Fields (J. B. Toews to Africa, 1952), (G. W. Peters to Colombia, 1953), (A. E. Janzen to Old Mexico, 1953), (e) Expansion

of Deputation. GCY, 1954, pp. 73-78.
 (f) Personnel and Stations. pp. 78-81. (g)
 Triennial Financial Statement, 1952, 1953,
 1954. pp. 81-86. (h) Statement of Assets. pp.
 86-87. (i) Evaluation. p. 87. (j) Graphs. pp.
 88-91.

(The following resolution was passed by the
 Conference): That with deep gratitude for
 the increase God has given, for the
 efficiency with which the Board has
 administered the work, their report (be)
 accepted gratefully. GCY, 1954, p. 92.

1954

Note: Brother J. B. Toews, who had come
 into the mission administration as deputation
 secretary on December 3, 1953, gave a brief
 oral report on his work in the churches in
 behalf of foreign missions. GCY, 1954, p.
 92.

1954 -- Acceptance of the budget

That the estimated annual budget for the
 coming Conference interim be accepted as
 follows:

Africa, 8 centers, 62 missionaries	100,000
Brazil, 1 center, 4-6 missionaries	9,000
Colombia, 3 centers, 20 missionaries	55,000
Ecuador, 1 center, 2 missionaries	4,000
Europe, 3 centers, 5 missionaries	20,000
India, 9 centers, 42 missionaries	100,000
Japan, 3 centers, 12 missionaries	20,000
Mexico, 3 centers, 8 missionaries	12,000
Paraguay, 4 centers, 23 missionaries	13,000
U.S.A., 3 centers, 13 missionaries	21,000
Miscellaneous -- Building on fields, equipment, study in Belgium, Travel to fields, transfers, unforeseen	20,000
General and Transfer accounts	20,000
Overhead, Administration and Maintenance	20,000
New missionaries	<u>26,000</u>
Total	440,000

1954 -- Acceptance of new fields

That with gratitude we endorse the action of the Mission Board and the Committee of Reference and Counsel, and that we officially now accept the fields presented in the (Mission) Board's report ... namely: That our Conference (a) Furnish and support a missionary and his wife capable of taking charge and broadcasting the German gospel programs transmitted over radio station HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes," located at Quite, Ecuador, South America. (b) The permanent work in Europe begun 1952, Germany and Austria, which in September, 1954, had the first Mennonite Brethren baptismal service held at Neuwied, Germany. (c) The Mennonite Brethren church at Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, staffed entirely by and composed of Mexican believers. (d) The evangelization of the Moro Indians of the Chaco of Paraguay with whom contact was first attempted in 1949 and evangelization was first attempted in 1953. (e) The H. C. Billington (deceased) Mission adding to our India field the Makhtal and Narayanpet Telegu areas upon Rev. Billington's request and recommendation of our India missionaries. GCY, 1954, pp. 76, 92.

1957 -- Conference resolutions on foreign missions

Note: Since Brother J. A. Harder, Mission Board chairman, was ill, Brother G. J. Baerg, vice-chairman, introduced the work of foreign missions. Brother G. W. Peters, in the absence of the recording secretary, Brother Lando Hiebert, read a report of the Board's work. GCY, 1957, pp. 22, 23.

1957 -- Greeting to Brother J. A. Harder

That a brother from the Conference be appointed by the chairman to bring personal greetings to Brother J. A. Harder ... (and) that the greeting be made more personal by sending a member of the Board of Foreign

Missions with the greeting from the Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 23.

1957 -- Greetings to our missionaries

That the resolutions committee be instructed to prepare a statement of greetings from the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America in session at Yarrow, B. C., to our missionaries on the foreign fields, expressing our appreciation and pledging our support of their work. GCY, 1957, p. 23.

1957

Note: At the September 21-26, 1957, meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions, the Board submitted a change in the Mennonite Brethren Conference constitution to the committee on constitution (1957 Board minutes. p. 111) which provided that Mennonite Brethren Foreign Missions be administered by an "Administrative Secretariat" consisting of the several secretaries appointed by the Board from time to time. This change in the constitution was accepted by the Conference in October, 1957. The Board organized the secretaries to *serve* in the following capacities in the "Administrative Secretariat": A. E. Janzen as Executive Secretary-Treasurer; and J. B. Toews, as Deputation Secretary, and assigned the field correspondence and supervision of certain areas to the executive secretary, and certain areas to the deputation secretary. (1957, October, Board minutes, p. 133).

The triennial report on foreign missions at the 1957 Conference was presented by the executive secretary-treasurer, in the name of the "Administrative Secretariat" under the following headings: General, Spiritual Harvest, Threefold Effort Emphasis, Production of Bibles and Christian Literature, Movement of Missionaries, Visits to the Fields, New Fields, Building Activity, Relocation of Post Oak Mission, Personnel and Stations,

Distribution of North American Missionaries by Areas, Publications, Statistical Summary of Foreign Missions, Financial Statements, 1955, 1956, 1957, Financial Analysis, Disbursements by Fields, Administrative Accounts, Balance Sheets. GCY, 1957, pp. 23-40.

1957 -- Acceptance of reports

That the report be accepted with gratitude. GCY, 1957, p. 40.

1957 -- Acceptance of budget

That the present budget be adopted for the next Conference interim:

Africa, 8 centers, 66 missionaries	96,933.52
Brazil, 1 center, 4-6 missionaries	18,170.00
Colombia, 4 centers, 21 missionaries	36,200.00
Ecuador, 1 center, 5 missionaries	8,660.00
Europe, 3 centers, 10 missionaries	14,716.00
India, 9 centers, 37 missionaries	83,570.00
Japan, 5 centers, 12 missionaries	25,319.00
Mexico, 3 centers, 106 missionaries	19,690.00
Paraguay, 5 centers, 2-19 missionaries	16,605.00
U.S.A., 2 centers, 10-1 missionaries	16,192.00
Buildings and Projects	80,300.00
Pension	5,000.00
General, Traveling to and from Fields, Transfers, Administration, Maintenance, Overhead	<u>52,100.00</u>
Total	473,455.53

GCY, 1957, pp. 40, 41.

1957 -- Provision for budget increase

That the present budget be adopted for the next Conference interim with the provision of increase. GCY, 1957, p. 40.

1957 -- Progressive foreign missions budget

That the budget for foreign missions be allowed to increase at the rate of 10 percent per year during the next Conference interim. GCY, 1967, p. 40.

1957 -- Lawton View Mission

That negotiations be renewed with the Southern District in regard to taking over Lawton View Mission and build it into a church of the district. GCY, 1957, p. 40.

1957 -- Post Oak Mission

That the Board of Foreign Missions be authorized to approach the Southern District Conference with a view of working out a basis upon which to incorporate Post Oak Mission, Indianahoma, Oklahoma, with all of the institutions and assets into the southern district as a regular Mennonite Brethren Church. GCY, 1957, pp. 40, 41.

1957 -- Grand Forks Mission, B.C.

That those assets still owned by the General M.B. Conference in property at Grand Forks, B.C. be donated and transferred to the Canadian Mennonite Brethren Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 41.

1957 -- Residence of missionaries on furlough

That in order to encourage missionaries to live within the district or province of their home church, the respective district or province be asked to furnish the missionary, especially families, with housing and utilities during furlough time. GCY, 1957, p. 41.

1957 -- Length of term of service

That the normal length of a term of service on the foreign fields be reduced from seven to six years, and that deviations from the normal length necessitated by climatic conditions be regulated in the "Guiding Principles and Field Policies" of the Board (of Missions). GCY, 1957, p. 41.

1957 -- Statement of General Mennonite Brethren Conference position in Foreign Missions

That the missionary ministry of the Mennonite Brethren Church from its inception was a spontaneous expression of its scriptural faith and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ in which the responsibility for the ministry to a large extent was assumed by the missionaries called out of their midst and the churches at home constituted the praying and supporting background of those who went out into the field. That part of the church at home through its appointed Board was to watch carefully over the spiritual qualifications of those whom the Lord called out and appointed to the ministry abroad, leaving to the individual missionary the greatest share of the responsibility for the method of work, pattern of program, and standards of accomplishment. The administrative structure limited itself to the coordination of the various mission interests in order to assure the workers on the field the needed support.

The extension of our mission program has continued to be largely of a spontaneous character without a careful study of fields, pattern of work tried in respective fields or an effort to establish a directive program and strategy for the missionaries who were sent

out. The general philosophy of missions called for men and women who would go out "to bring the gospel to the millions who are lost" not requiring the acceptance of directives or established standards to follow. The spiritual motivation of an obedience to our Lord's command constituted practically the inclusive requirement for the task.

The status of our missionary program up to this day corresponds to the above stated philosophy which is true in its motivation, sincere in its efforts and sacrificial in its devotion, consecrated in its support on the part of the constituencies. The major emphasis rested in the responsibility "we must win the lost for Christ."

The world-wide revolutionary changes of the post-war era effecting every phase of the international, national, social and religious life of our generation exert a severe testing upon the missionary accomplishment of the past and its program for the future. The impact of the changes establish beyond question that the time of a fixed routine pattern of mission program to continue for decades has passed. The station-centered mission program has outlived itself. The assignment of a missionary for a stationary ministry of evangelism with a lifetime to continue in the same place as the central figure of a perpetual program results in a reactionary protest of the nationalistically-conscious native of all lands. With the growing international rejection of all colonial imperialism there has also arisen a principal rejection of the "missionary centered" gospel ministry.

The effect of the above-given observations on our missionary program of today are far-reaching and demand considerable adjustments for the future in the area of our missionary approach and administrative direction. The qualifications for missionaries of the new era in many respects differ from those of the past. Methods of field operation

and measurements of accomplishments also are undergoing revision.

The distinct standard of accomplishment of our day requires an operational administrative policy which is more concentrated than that of the past. The major emphasis does not limit itself only to the point of outreach but rather the establishment of an indigenous church which can assume the responsibility for the evangelization of its own constituency even though the missions may be required to withdraw. With the church-centered emphasis the responsibility of the evaluation of the work cannot be left to the individual missionary alone but must be assumed by the corporate judgment of the missionaries on the field together with the Board and the church at home. Periodic administrative visits to the field by members of the Board and administrative staff have therefore become a necessity.

To meet our charge of the missionary assignment, we must be prepared under God to effect some changes in our methods of administration at home and on the field. It requires new standards of qualifications of missionaries and will demand new methods in some areas of work. A hesitancy on our part to consider such needed changes may result in a loss which will far exceed the values which we hope to preserve by avoiding the required adjustment.

The Board of Missions together with the missionaries on the field are deeply conscious of the responsibility that rests upon them in these days of changes. Every effort is being made to find the needed light and direction that under the guidance of the Lord we may meet the challenge before us. The Board covets the special intercessory prayer of our Conference for its difficult responsibility. It invites the assistance of brethren from our constituency who under the Lord can help in bringing light in the many important matters involved. The

Board would also covet the sympathetic understanding on the part of our churches if some changes in personnel would have to be effected to assure a most fruitful ministry on the various fields.

Knowing that many of the leading brethren of our Conference together with us have been conscious of the stated developments, the Board would greatly appreciate any statement of direction from the Conference for the future discharge of the most sacred responsibility of bringing Christ to the millions of the unevangelized countries while it is yet day.

A sympathetic response to the above presentation led the Conference delegation to accept the above statement as Mennonite Brethren Conference position and policy in our future foreign missions method and principle. GCY, 1957, pp. 41, 42, 43.

1957 -- Financial support of returned missionaries

That when the Board of Missions feels that it needs additional guidance in regard to financial support of missionaries who are forced to retire from service on account of broken health or some other unforeseen circumstances, that it consult with the Board of Reference and Counsel and jointly present a recommendation to the Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 44.

1957 -- Loans from Board of Trustees

That the Conference authorize the Board of Trustees to make loans available to the Board of Missions up to \$16,000 to meet emergencies as stated above (viz. funds needed upon short notice and in summer months ...when mission receipts are low). GCY, 1957, p. 119.

1957 -- Greetings to our missionaries

(That greetings be extended as follows:) The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America in session at Yarrow, B.C., Canada, in its 47th

convention extends its Christian greetings to our missionaries serving the "Lord of the Harvest" in the foreign fields and to the native church with Joshua 1:9, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

We thank our Heavenly Father for entrusting to us this great work with open doors and opportunities for world evangelism, and for the souls won to Jesus Christ. "Faithful is he who calleth thee, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24).

We thank the Lord and express sincere gratitude to the willing workers for their sacrificial service on the fields and while on furlough, and pray that the grace of God will enable and sustain them in every experience.

As a Conference, we pledge our united support of our missionaries in the spirit that "... we are laborers together with God" (I Cor. 3:9). May God's presence and richest blessings be with you continually. The letter is also to contain greetings to the national workers.

The Conference (through resolutions committee, John E. Friesen, John Pankratz, Isaac Tiessen). CCY, 1957, pp. 119, 120.

1960

Note: In 1959, Brother J. B. Toews became the general secretary of M.H. Foreign Missions, chairman of the Administrative Secretariat, and handled the field correspondence of Africa, Europe, Japan, Ecuador. A. E. Janzen continued as treasurer, and handled the field correspondence of India, Brazil, Paraguay, India, and Indonesia. Brother John C. Ratzlaff, who had joined the Mission staff on June 1, 1958, became the secretary of the administrative secretariat, and handled the field correspondence of Mexico and Colombia, and assumed most of the deputation work. The official titles of the

three members of the administrative secretariat as of January 1, 1960 were, J. B. Toews, general secretary, John C. Ratzlaff, assistant general secretary, A. E. Janzen, treasurer, in which office he continued to serve until August 1, 1960. Brother P. J. Funk was added to the staff as secretary of finance and took over the responsibility of the treasury. Brother Marion Kliever who entered service on the Mission office staff on August 1, 1955, on half-time basis, in charge of publication of mission literature and news, preferred to work on the "employee" basis until 1960. Board of Missions, Minutes, March, 1958, p. 152; March 12, 1959, p. 252; February 20, 1960, pp. 351, 352.

1960 -- 1960 Conference reports

At the 1960 (Centennial) Conference, Brother J. B. Toews, as general secretary, presented the reports in the name of the administrative secretariat, under the headings: General, Brazil, Colombia, Republic of Congo, Europe, India, Japan, Mexico, and South Texas, Paraguay, Status of K.M.B. Mission Program -- Pent, North Carolina and Tennessee, Inter-Mission Ministries, Mission Personnel, Present Requirements in our World-wide Gospel Outreach, Board of Foreign Missions Publications, Our Charge and Our Response, Personnel of the Mennonite Brethren Church Foreign Missions, Principles and Policies, Merger of K.M.B. and M.B. Foreign Missions. GCY, 1960, pp. 48-68; 75-80; 81-82.

And A. E. Janzen, as outgoing treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the years 1958, 1959, 1960. GCY, 1960, pp. 68-75. While Brother P. J. Funk, the newly appointed Secretary of Finance, presented the budget as follows:

Country	Budget	Projects
Brazil	\$ 29,320	8,000
Congo	138,600	1,500
Colombia	47,190	19,000
Ecuador	10,306	
Europe	29,240	28,800
India	106,155	18,000
Japan	36,635	4,500
Mexico	13,170	
South Texas	10,860	
Paraguay	19,800	13,200
Peru	12,900	
Pensions	7,500	
Maintenance	2,000	
Administration Office	30,000	
Deputation	8,000	
Printing and Publicity	6,000	44,000
New Missionaries	20,000	
Medical Aid	3,000	
Reserve for future pensions	4,000	
Literature production	5,000	
Unforeseen	6,000	
North Carolina	2,100	
Inter-Missions	31,000	93,000
Total	578,776	671,776

1960 -- Budget and increase accepted

(a) That the budget as presented be accepted, and (b) that the budget for foreign missions be allowed to increase at the rate of 5 percent per year during the next Conference interim. GCY, 1960, pp. 99, 100.

1960 -- Statement of Acknowledgement and Commitment

That in recognition of the many blessings and responsibilities in the area of foreign missions which God has bestowed upon us ... the following statement of acknowledgement and commitment (be adopted):

In grateful acknowledgment of God's boundless grace and mercy extended to our brotherhood in the history of the first century of our existence; and

In consideration of the trust extended to us in the wide-open doors to respond to the world commission of the risen Lord to evangelize the world; and

In consideration of the large brotherhood of believers in other lands who have joined us at a Mennonite Brethren Church: and In consideration of the great spiritual urgency of our day to complete the assignment of Christ to "preach the Gospel to every creature," be it resolved:

(a) That the Mennonite Brethren Church on the occasion of its centennial Conference renew its dedication to the sacred assignment of the world evangelization committed to the church by our risen and ascended Lord Who calls us "to finish His work; "

(b) That the task of evangelism be carried out in closest cooperation with the sister churches which God has raised up through the witness of the Gospel in other parts of the world and who have joined us as a Mennonite Brethren Conference;

(c) That the Board of Missions be charged to expand the program of world evangelism in the scope of Conference direction with renewed strength to meet the responsibilities

arising from the spiritual crisis of our day and to redeem the unprecedented opportunities for world evangelism which God is giving us in this hour of history and that special attention is to be given to the following areas of service:

1. To assume renewed responsibility in the field of pioneer mission work to reach the multitudes of millions who up to this day have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. To labor in closest cooperation with existing national churches and conferences to establish the work through the training of national workers, development of leadership and reaching out into adjoining areas not yet evangelized.

3. To consider the open door for the Gospel in South America as a special opportunity to be given central consideration in mission strategy for the coming Conference interim.

(d) That we as a brotherhood on this occasion of our centennial Conference pledge ourselves to renewed faithfulness in intercessory prayer, faith and sacrifice of finances and lives as a continued response to the commission of Christ: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18, 19, 20). GCY, 1960, pp. 96, 97.

1960 -- Financial provision for Congo evacuation of missionaries

That because of the serious Congo emergency created through the political unrest demanded the evacuation of all except one couple of our mission personnel, and the current budget provisions for the operation of the program are insufficient to

cover the demands of expenses arising from such circumstances, and

Since the needs not provided in current budgets which require adequate provision for the following are:

- (a) Expenses incurred through the evacuation from the Congo to Angola, Europe, and America of 34 adults and 36 children,
- (b) Special rehabilitation allowances to missionaries who have returned and whose re-assignment at the present cannot be visualized,
- (c) The heavy losses sustained by the treasury through the devaluation of the Congo currency.
- (d) The assistance to our missionaries to replace their personal effects and household equipment where such cannot be withdrawn from the Congo and the high cost of transportation which makes the shipment of such articles to the homeland inadvisable, and
- (e) The necessity of re-locating the mission personnel who in Limited number eventually may be returned to assist the national church in the continuation of the Gospel ministry in that land. (It is foreseen, that a number of the present mission centers will need to be transferred to the occupation of the national believers and that mission quarters will need to be established in larger population centers; the cost of which re-location under present emergency circumstances being extremely high),

That, in consideration of the given demands which may require an emergency appropriation from \$40,000 to \$60,000, the Board of Missions ...be provided for the stated need from the Mission Endowment Fund in the form of a special appropriation to be replaced through a continued contribution to this fund from the constituency of the brotherhood. GCY, 1960, pp. 97, 98.

1960 -- Residence of missionaries on furlough

(That to the provision made for missionaries on furlough... as adopted by the 1957, General Mennonite Brethren Conference,... in order) to meet special circumstances, the following provisions be added:

(a) That a church or district be absolved from the responsibility of making such (as the 1957) provisions when the following circumstances arise:

1. Where missionaries find it expedient to establish their residence away from their home church and district,
2. Where the missionaries accept employment and have an income in addition to the furlough allowance.

(b) That where missionaries are required to live away from their home churches for the purposes of gaining additional educational preparation for their service on the field under the direction of the Board of Missions, that the Board reach an agreement with the home church in regard to the arising needs.

(c) That in cases where churches or districts face undue financial obligations to make such provision because of considerable missionary concentration, it be their privilege to present the arising circumstances to the Board of Missions and reach an agreement with the Board as to the portion to be carried by the home district and church and the general treasury of the Board of Missions. That in such circumstances, however. the local church retain the privilege to make provision for their missionaries in the area of their home constituency. GCY, 1960, pp. 98, 99.

1960 -- Shortening the name of the Board

That in consideration of the changing world circumstances, and in consideration of the co-labor relationship of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America with the Mennonite Brethren Churches in other lands, the Board of Foreign Missions...

change the name from "The Board of Foreign Missions of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America" to "The Board of Missions of the Mennonite Brethren Church." GCY, 1960, p. 154.

1960 -- Resolution showing Conference gratitude for the long and faithful service of Brother A. E. Janzen in the area of foreign missions

The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church in session at Reedley, California, at this centennial convention wishes to extend a word of appreciation to Brother A. E. Janzen for his long term of service in the area of foreign missions. Brother Janzen assumed the responsibility for the administration of Conference foreign mission work after the passing of Rev. H. W. Lohrenz in 1945. The Conference has been keenly aware of the devotion and sacrificial service of our brother during these past fifteen years.

During this period our mission program has made rapid progress and has indeed become a world-wide ministry to lost souls.

While Brother Janzen's more recent work has been related primarily to missionary finances, he has, nevertheless, been vitally interested and concerned with the entire program and personnel.

While Brother Janzen is retiring from the more active participation in the secretariat, we trust the Lord will sustain him for many more years as he continues to labor in the area of writing and compiling missionary literature.

We express our appreciation for his devotion and service in the words of the Apostle Paul as found in I Thessalonians 1:2-3: "We give thanks to God always for you... making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." GCY, 1960, pp. 94, 154, 155.

1963

Note: After the chairman, Brother P. R. Lange, had introduced the report of the Board of Missions by reading Phil. 1:1-3, he called on Brother G. W. Peters, the recording secretary, to read the written report of the Board under the headings: The Organization of the Board, Changes During the Past Three Years, The Meeting of the Board, The Concerns of the Board, The Gratitude of the Board... which was accepted by the Conference. GCY, 19~3, pp. 57-61.

1963

Then Brother J. B. Toews, general secretary of M.B. Missions, presented the triennial report on foreign missions in the name of the administrative secretariat, entitled "Obedience in Partnership" under the headings: A Message from the Board of Missions, The Ministry of the Missionaries, In Memoriam, The Ministry of Administration, Out-reach With Our Sister Conferences, Japan, India, Europe, Congo, Thrust Into Latin America, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Latin American Church, Inter-Mission Ministries, World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Sudan Interior Mission and Evangelical Alliance Mission, Our Opportunity and Our Trust. This report was accepted. GCY, 1963, pp. 61-84 and 91.

1963

Following the above two reports, Brother P. J. Funk, secretary of finance, presented the Triennial Financial Statement and graphs, which were accepted. GCY, 1963, pp. 84-90.

1963 -- Budget accepted

That the following budget be accepted:

1964 Budget

Country	Salaries	Oper.Exp.	Projects	Total
Japan	\$32,705.87	\$45,625.00	\$40,000.00	\$123,330.87
India	47,415.00	35,050.00		82,465.00
Europe	18,544.00	23,160.00	1,750.00	43,454.00
Congo	44,400.00	43,071.50		87,471.50
Paraguay	8,460.00	8,350.00	13,250.00	30,060.00
Brazil	29,408.00	21,815.00	11,100.00	62,323.00
Colombia	23,900.00	29,180.00		53,080.00
Peru	7,184.00	2,065.00		9,213.00
Panama	800.00	2,600.00		3,400.00
Mexico	10,000.00	16,406.80	5000.00	31,406.80
South Texas	12,800.00	3,200.00		16,000.00
North Carolina	720.00	500.00		1,220.00
Quite Ecuador	8,305.00	4,200.00		12,505.00
Missionary Aviation Fel.	1,930.00			1,930.00
TEAM	5,112.00	250.00		5,362.00
Sudan Interior Mission	<u>10,750.00</u>	<u>900.00</u>		<u>11,650.00</u>
	262,397.87	236,373.30	71,100.00	569,871.17

Social Security	7,000.00
Pensions	7,000.00
Maintenance	2,500.00
Administration	50,000.00
New Missionaries	25,000.00
Medical Aid to Mission.	4,000.00
Exchange Charges	28,000.00
Unforeseen	25,000.00
Board Meetings	1,800.00
Educational Aid	1,500.00
Sum. School of Missions	3,000.00
Ca. Investm. on Fields	18,000.00
Film Production	5,000.00
Literature	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total 1964 budget	767,671.10

GCY, 1963, pp. 119, 120.

1963 -- Budget rate of increase

That to discharge our financial responsibility in the missionary outreach in the face of inflationary trends and continually rising costs... the Conference adopts an annual 5 percent increase over the 1963 budget of \$740,523. The adoption of the 5 percent annual increase over the period of three years, 1964-1966, results in the following annual budgets for the next Conference interim: 1964-\$777,550; 1965-\$816,420; 1966-\$857,241. GCY, 1963, p. 119.

1963 -- Concerning shorter furloughs

That in consideration of the changing circumstances of world missions demanding closest integration of mission personnel with the national church; and, in consideration of the need for the continuity of the ministry within the framework of the national church avoiding prolonged absence of workers in the "partnership" with the national church; and, in consideration of the means of transportation making it possible for most of our missionaries to return home in less than 24 hours ...the Board of Missions is authorized to negotiate with the missionaries and churches involved to find the best solution possible in this matter. GCY, 1963, pp. 118, 119.

1963 -- Outreach to Mohammedans

(a) That the Mennonite Brethren Conference accept the responsibility of extending the gospel of salvation to the Mohammedans as part of a missionary trust. (b) That the Conference authorize the Board of Missions to pursue a careful study of the issues of involvement, degrees of need and possible areas where such a ministry could be most effectively initiated. (c) That the Conference approve the entrance into the Middle East, specifically Jordan, if the study of needs and opportunities now in progress reveals circumstances in which we can recognize the call of God. GCY, 1963, p. 118.

1963 -- Enlargement of Board of Missions

That in the light of an ever-enlarging program of Missions of the Mennonite Brethren Church and in consideration of the need to share the responsibility for the administration and operation of this program with a larger group of brethren in the brotherhood, and in order that the Board of Missions be enabled to organize itself into effective working commissions for distribution of responsibility to achieve greater efficiency in the promotion and operation of the mission program... the Conference... enlarge the Board from the (1960) constitutional number of nine to thirteen members. GCY, 1963, p. 94.

1963 -- Representation of the Board of Missions

That the Board of Missions recommendation... "that the membership of the enlarged Board be representative in relation to geo- graphic and Conference areas, i.e. U.S.A.: Pacific, Central, and Southern districts--two members each; Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario at least one member each; that representation be selected from the ranks of pastors, ministers, lay brethren and our two Conference theological institutions of advanced standing, Mennonite Brethren Bible College and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, which are assigned to the responsibility of specialized training of personnel for this world-wide program" (GCY, 1963, pp. 94, 95) be reconsidered ... (to read as follows): "That there be six U.S.A. members, two from each district, on the Board, and six Canadian members, with provincial conference representation, with one member elected at large ...and, that there be two non-voting, consultative members on the Board representing the two theological schools." GCY, 1963, p. 115.

1963 -- Statement of greeting, exhortation and renewed commitment

That the following statement be adopted... and sent to our world-wide brotherhood:

1. *Statement of gratitude.* The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church expresses deep gratitude to God for His blessings upon the missionary outreach of the brotherhood in obedience to the commission of the crucified, risen and ascended Christ. The churches and groups of believers which have resulted from the ministry of the gospel stand there as tokens of God's grace and mercy. The Conference sends greetings to our sister churches in India, Japan, Europe, Congo, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Indonesia with the words of Paul the Apostle: "Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:2-6).

2. *Fellowship in mutual edification.* The Conference acknowledges, in deep gratitude, its spiritual oneness in Christ and recognizes the inward affinity which binds us to our sister churches abroad. They have been called out from the world to a spiritual fellowship of believers which supercedes all national loyalties and extends beyond racial divisions. We recognize ourselves as one brotherhood of the Mennonite Brethren Conference international, with Christ as our head and we His members. To nurture our spiritual fellowship in Christ and with one another, we propose to send brethren from our churches to the fellow believers in other lands for a ministry in the Word and in return welcome brethren from sister churches abroad, such contributions in

spiritual ministry to be considered for shorter and longer periods of time.

3. *Obedience in partnership.* As Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches of North America we propose a united obedience to the missionary assignment of Christ in a program of partnership in opportunity and responsibility to extend the message of salvation to the multitudes of our generation who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Such obedience in partnership is to be visualized through the following channels: (a) Through the creation of mission committees in the M.B. churches and conferences to stimulate mission interests in a more vital expression of our responsibility regarding the commandment of Christ to preach the gospel to every creature (Matt. 28: 19, 20; Luke 24:46-48). (b) Through the recruitment of personnel from churches to join the ranks of missionaries sent to other lands with spiritual under- girding and financial support from their home constituency. (c) Through a general active responsibility for financial resources to extend the outreach of evangelism around the world.

4. *Obedience in identification.* To be effective in the obedience of partnership in evangelism and edification, we recognize the importance of the Biblical principle to express our spiritual affinity in mutual identification which rises above the level of cultural and economic differences. "I am made all things to all men that I by all means might save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). Our missionaries in various parts of the world, who serve as co-laborers with our sister churches, we exhort that they identify themselves with our fellow believers by integrating into the structure of the local fellowship as members of the respective churches and remove all differences of rank and position.

5. *Our commitment of obedience.* In response to the trust of God, who has called

His church for the purpose of evangelizing the world, we call upon the sister churches in various parts of the world to assume greater responsibility for the financial support and spiritual direction of the program in their own localities in order to free mission personnel and resources for the extension of the gospel to other areas. The Conference instructs the Board of Missions to proceed in the formulation of a definite program which will lead to the reduction of subsidies for the maintenance and support of existing spiritual fellowships around the world in order to channel these resources into the wider expansion program to reach other people who have not yet heard.

In obedience to the missionary call of our Lord we wish to clasp hands with our sister churches abroad in partnership of dedication to the great work of training a witnessing church to extend its message to the people round about that the body of Jesus Christ can soon be gathered and the return of our Lord hastened. GCY, 1963, pp. 95, 96.

1963 -- Vote of thanks to mission personnel

(a) That the Conference give a vote of thanks to the brethren A. E. Janzen, J. B. Toews and John C. Ratzlaff for the ministries rendered in the home office, and to the following missionaries who, in recent years, have retired from active service in the mission field: John H. Lohrenz, Brother and Sister P. V. Belter, and the Sisters Mary Wall, Helen Warkentin, Margaret Suderman and Anna Suderman. They have served the Lord in India, giving the major part of their life to the work of the Lord in India and representing the Conference on that field. (b) That the conference commit itself to faithful intercession for the brethren and sisters in the home office, our missionaries and sister churches and groups of believers in our various mission fields. (c) That our Conference send greetings to our

missionaries and sister churches in the various countries of the world, encouraging them to be bold for the Lord, steadfast in their faith, united and zealous for the Lord, whose soon return we are awaiting. (d) That the Conference chairman request some brethren to present the cause of missions, in the name of the Conference, unto the Lord in fervent intercession. GCY, 1963, p. 120.

CITY MISSIONS

1907 -- Creation of a committee on city missions

Note: (a) The following were nominated for a committee on city missions: J. J. Kliewer, chairman; N. N. Hiebert, secretary; Jakob E. Dick, treasurer. (b) This committee was given the assignment to look for contributions, for workers for a city mission service, and for a suitable location. (c) A resolution was adopted that since Sister Elizabeth Neufeld and Brother P. C. Hiebert are expected to do some work in city missions, that the matter be allowed to rest for this year (1907-1908). (Apparently the committee remained in force). GCY, 1907, pp. 378, 379.

1908

Note. In 1908, Brother J. J. Kliewer, chairman of the committee on city mission reported about city mission work in Hurley, Wisconsin, and why the work in Minneapolis had not been undertaken, and that Brother and Sister B. F. Wiens and Sister Katharina Klassen had been engaged (to labor at Hurley). This report was approved. GCY, 1908, p. 391.

1909

Note. In 1908, the A. A. Smiths had started city mission work in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The committee on city missions had provided them with some support from special contributions. This was reported to the Conference in 1909. GCY, 1909, p. 414.

1909 — Minneapolis city mission accepted by the Conference

(a) That the Conference approve the continuation of the Minneapolis city mission, and request the churches to gather one special offering for city missions (per year). GCY, 1909, p. 414. (b) That the committee be permitted to engage the A. A. Smiths (as workers) to the extent the treasury permits. GCY, 1909, p. 416.

1912

Note: In 1912 a report of the work in Minneapolis and the treasurer's report was presented. In 1909, attention of the Conference was drawn to the need of city mission in Winnipeg. (GCY, 1909, p. 417). This need was repeated in 1912. The Conference took note of it, but in the discussion decided that expansion in city missions was not possible at this time. GCY, 1912, pp. 438, 439.

1915 — Ordination of A. A. Smiths and Tina Klassen

That Brother and Sister A. A. Smith and Sister Tina Klassen be ordained (for city mission service). GCY, 1915, pp. 461, 462.

1915 — Sister Anna Hiebert. accepted

That Sister Anna Hiebert be engaged to serve in the (Minneapolis) city mission at the regular compensation of \$250 per year. GCY, 1915, p. 462.

1915

Note: Brother David Dyck (Canada) explained how the Northern Conference had been led to open the Winnipeg mission, and how this matter (of final support) had been deferred to this (1915 General Conference),

and that the churches (in Canada) had instructed their delegates to request the Conference to reduce their (financial) obligations toward Minneapolis city mission. Brother John Berg (California) related that the Pacific district also has a city mission where there is likewise a need for a chapel, but that the churches on the West Coast have instructed their delegates to support the Minneapolis city mission (of the General Conference). GCY, 1915, p. 463.

1915 — Effort to build a chapel for Minneapolis city mission

That the committee on city missions appeal to all our churches, to see whether it would be possible to gather sufficient funds to construct a chapel (for Minneapolis mission). (It was also reaffirmed that one half of the Thanksgiving Day offerings has been designated for [Minneapolis] city mission). (Cost of chapel estimated at \$5,000.) GCY, 1915, p. 463.

1915 — Conference sympathetic towards district city missions

(To obviate a scattering of effort in city missions, and to unify Conference city mission endeavors, a committee was asked to deliberate over this matter. It brought back to the Conference floor the following recommendation, which was accepted): That in regard to the Thanksgiving Day offerings (in the churches) the Conference rules that wherever possible, these offerings be designated for Minneapolis city mission. Wherever this is not practicable, that the churches nevertheless do not forget the (Minneapolis) mission, and support it with special offerings, so that this endeavor, which was once begun by the Conference and which has proved to be of blessing and promise, may be continued with blessing in the future. Aside from that, the Conference

takes a most sympathetic position towards the city mission efforts of the Northern Conference in Winnipeg, and the Pacific Conference at Bakersfield, and wishes them God's blessings in the endeavor, and does not wish in any way to hinder the support of these causes. GCY, 1915, pp. 462-464.

1919

Note. The Conference accepted the financial report of the current treasury of the Minneapolis city mission by J. E. Dick, treasurer, for the years 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, as well as the report covering the newly constructed chapel and wing at a cost of \$16,537.22. GCY, 1919, pp. 486, 487.

1919 — Recognition to J. E. Dick and A. E. Dick

That the Conference accept the treasurer's report and to thank Brother Dick for his service, and (in appreciation) allow Brother A. E. Dick (who worked on the chapel for one hundred days) \$300 for his labor. GCY, 1919, pp. 487, 488.

1919 — Salaries stipulated

That the salary of Brother and Sister A. A. Smith be raised to \$1,000 (per year), and that of the Sisters Tina Klassen and Anna M. Hiebert to \$400. The salary of Sister Tina Pauls to \$350. GCY, 1919, p.488.

1919

Note. It was being reported that the work started in Winnipeg may turn into a city mission, and that city mission work is being done in Portland, Oregon, and Bakersfield, California. Though the delegates expressed their delight that this ministry is expanding, the consensus was that the Conference should preserve unity and not over-expand

its interest and means in this direction. GCY, 1919, pp. 488, 489.

1919 — Support of Minneapolis city mission reaffirmed

That the Conference abide by its 1915 decision in regard to financial support of Minneapolis city mission. (See resolution, GCY, 1915, pp. 462-464-cited above). GCY, 1919, pp. 489, 490.

1921 — 1921 city mission resolutions

(a) That the committee be authorized to draw on additional (voluntary) help (to assist Brother A. A. Smith), but that the Conference does not favor the employment of more personnel for the time being. (b) That the salary of Sister Tina Pauls be raised from \$350 to \$400. (c) That the resignation of Sister Tina Klassen be accepted, and that she be allowed one-half salary for another year. (d) That the (mission) residence be improved to meet housing regulations. (e) That the members of the committee be elected by nomination and ballot (with a view of various district representation). (The result of the election was: H. S. Voth, Northern district; A. J. Wiebe, Central district; D. D. Hiebert, Southern district). (f) That a word of thanks be expressed to the committee that served during the past three years; (g) That a hearty greeting be sent to the mission workers, with 1 John 1:3-7, through the secretary of the committee on city missions, and to wish them God's blessing. GCY, 1921, pp. 83, 84.

1921 — Regarding Winnipeg city mission

(After sentiment in favor of accepting the Winnipeg mission as a Conference work was expressed, and a consensus of the discussion favored that the churches

consider this matter during the interim with a view of a decision at the next (1924) conference, a resolution was passed): (a) That we recommend to our churches in the States to gather an offering on Thanksgiving Day (as heretofore), and a second offering for the city mission in Minneapolis, and a third offering for the city mission in Winnipeg. (b) And that the churches in the Canadian district be requested to support the city mission in Winnipeg in accordance with their decision, and to gather one offering for the city mission in Minneapolis. GCY, 1921, pp. 84, 85.

1924 — 1924 Resolutions for city missions

(a) That the present workers in the (city) mission be engaged again at the same salary. (b) To appropriate funds for improvements of the buildings. (c) To appropriate travel funds so that Brother (A.A.) Smith can visit the churches as much as possible to stimulate interest for the city mission. (d) That the committee is allowed to engage additional help according to need. (e) To thank the mission workers and the committee for their ministry. (f) That we reaffirm the resolution of 1921, p. 34, “To recommend to our churches in the States, to gather on Thanksgiving Day, or if no services are held on that day, to do this on the following Sunday, one offering, and a second offering to go for the city mission in Minneapolis, and a third offering to go for city mission in Winnipeg. And to request the churches of the Northern District Conference to support the city mission in Winnipeg in line with their decision, and to gather one offering for the city mission in Minneapolis.” GCY, 1924, pp. 41, 42.

1927 — 1927 Resolutions for city missions

(a) That the present personnel (A. A. Smiths, Anna M. Hiebert, Tina Pauls) be

again engaged to serve. (b) That funds be appropriated for minor repairs. (c) That since the needs of the Smiths require it, to allow \$50.00 annually for each child. (d) That Brother Smith do some deputation work in the interests of the mission. (e) That the committee is free to call in additional help according to need. (f) To thank the committee and the staff for their toil and labor, and send them greetings. (g) And to repeat our resolution of 1924, p. 42, regarding support of city missions. GCY, 1927, pp. 37, 38.

1930 — City mission resolutions of 1930

(a) That Brother and Sister A. A. Smith and Sister Tina Pauls be engaged for another three years. (b) That the committee for city mission be authorized to engage help to fill the vacancy created by the leaving of Sister Anna M. Hiebert Ross. (c) That the Conference authorize minor and major repairs on the buildings. (d) That Brother A. A. Smith undertake some visits in the interests of the city mission. (e) That the Conference allow the committee to engage a second couple to serve on the staff if the treasury permits. (f) That the Conference abide by resolutions of 1924, page 47 and 1927, page 38, in regard to offerings for city missions. (g) That the term of the members be raised to nine years, and be staggered so that one member be elected at every (triennial) Conference session, and that at this (1930) Conference the election by nomination and balloting be carried out so that the member with the highest number of votes serve for nine years, the one with the next highest for six, and the next for three years. GCY, 1930, p. 37.

1933

Note. The committee on city missions had engaged Sister Tina Dahl to fill the vacancy

left by Sister Anna M. Hiebert Ross.

1933 — City mission resolutions of 1933

(a) That brother and Sister A. A. and Martha Smith be engaged for another three years at the same salary received during the past three years. (b) That the Sisters Tina Pauls and Tina Dahl also be engaged, at the same salary as in previous years. (c) That only the necessary repairs be made on the buildings as needed. (d) That churches whose districts maintain a city mission gather only one offering, and that churches whose districts have no district city mission, gather four offerings a year for the city mission of Minneapolis. GCY, 1933, p. 31. Note. Since a number of districts had begun to operate city missions under the administration of their home missions, or a district city missions committee, the question was raised on the Conference floor as to whether Minneapolis city mission should not also become an activity of the district. GCY, 1933, p. 31.

1936 — City mission resolutions of 1936

(a) That Brother and Sister A. A. and Martha Smith and the Sisters Tina Pauls and Tina Dahl be again engaged to serve at the same salary for another three years. (b) To provide the necessary repairs for the buildings. (c) That offerings in the churches be gathered as provided by the previous (1933) Conference. GCY, 1936, p. 32. Note. From the floor the sentiment was voiced that the Minneapolis city mission should become an organized church. GCY, 1936, p. 33.

1939 — City mission resolutions of 1939

(a) That Brother and Sister A. A. Smith be engaged for another three-year term as missionaries and leader of the Conference

city mission in Minneapolis. (b) To engage at moderate compensation a young couple suited under prevailing circumstances and conditions to assist in the work. (c) That the established offerings be continued by churches in the future: namely, quarterly in the southern and central districts, and once annually in the northern and Pacific districts. GCY, 1939, p. 41.

1939 — Recognition extended to retiring city mission staff and board members

(a) That we extend to the Sisters Dahl and Pauls, who are leaving the work, our word of thanks for their service, and express our recognition in allowing each \$100 from the city mission treasury. (b) That we are grateful to the Lord that He has held us as Conference worthy to minister by means of the Minneapolis city mission. We think of the ministry of Brother and Sister A. A. Smith. May the Lord perfect 1 Cor. 15:58 in them. To the Sisters Tina Pauls and Tina Dahi we extend Romans 16:1 and 2 as a word of farewell. May the Lord also reward the committee for their ministry in behalf of this mission. May God especially bless the retiring members, the Brethren A. J. Wiebe and D. D. Hiebert. GCY, 1939, p. 42.

1943

Note. After the leaving of the Sisters Tina Pauls and Tina Dahl, the committee on city missions had engaged Brother and Sister Ruben I3aerg while they were studying for three years at Northwestern Schools, to labor part time together with the Smiths. The Baergs were followed by the Herman Warkentins who served for a brief interim.

1943 — City mission resolutions for 1943

(a) That because of ill health of Sister Smith and upon the advice of her doctor, the

Conference grants Brother and Sister Smith a furlough of one year with a remuneration of \$900, and (authorizes) the committee to find workers to fill the vacancy. (b) That Brother and Sister Melvin Schimnowski who have assisted in the work since February (of 1943) be appointed assistant workers for a period of three years, with a remuneration of \$70 per month. (c) That the churches of our Conference support the mission financially as heretofore. (d) That the churches of our Conference obligate themselves to support this branch of our Conference with their prayers. GCY, 1943, p. 79.

1945 —Vote on turning the Minneapolis city mission over to the districts postponed until 1948

That the motion to take a vote by ballot to get the sentiment of the Conference as to whether it would wish to turn the city mission over to a respective district or districts in which it is located, was tabled till the next (1948) meeting of the Conference. GCY, 1945, p. 31.

Note. The Schimnowskis served until August 17, 1945. They were followed by Brother and Sister George Martens. The committee of city missions consisted up to November 27, 1945, of David Hooge, chairman; G. W. Lohrenz, secretary; and B. B. Fadenrecht, treasurer. The election in 1945 resulted in a new committee of the following Brethren: Waldo Wiebe, chairman; Dan E. Friesen, secretary; and H. E. Wiens, treasurer. GCY, 1945, p. 125.

1948 —Regarding transfer of city missions to districts

(a) That the sentiment of the Conference (is) in favor of turning the city missions” over to the respective districts (in which they are operating). (b) That we support the

work of city missions by free-will offerings as we have been doing. until the support is taken over by a district or districts. GCY, 1948, pp. 52, 53.

Note. The above two resolutions affected the “South Side Mission” in Minneapolis, at which Brother and Sister Chester Fast were in charge at the time; and ‘The Gospel Witness to Israel” in Winnipeg, where Brother and Sister J. J. Pankratz were serving. The Conference elected the Brethren Dan E. Friesen, Waldo Wiebe, and J. A. Toews, into the committee on city missions. GCY, 1948, p. 53.

1951 —Winnipeg Jewish (city) mission

(a) That the work among the Jewish people in Winnipeg continue. (b) That Brother and Sister Jacob J. Pankratz continue to serve us as our Conference missionaries to the Jewish people. GCY, 1951, p. 110.

1951 —Minneapolis South Side Mission

(a) That the Conference express appreciation to Brother and Sister Chester Fast (for their service). (b) That the Conference continue a city mission program in Minneapolis. (c) That Brother and Sister Harry Beier of Tampa, Kansas, be appointed as our city missionaries in Minneapolis. (d) That the Conference give the new city missions committee the privilege of disposing of the present property and erecting such building or chapel as would meet the need, be more practical (than the old) for the work and more economical to operate. (e) That the Conference continue to gather the funds on the same basis as in the past. GCY, 1951, pp. 110, 111.

Note. The Conference elected the Brethren J. A. Toews, A. H. Ewert, and J. P. Kliewer into the city missions committee.

1954 —Continuation of city missions by the Conference (for the time being)

(a) That the ministry of our city missions in both fields, Winnipeg and Minneapolis, be carried on in the future and that our churches remember this work in earnest prayer and intercession. (b) That the Canadian Conference assume the responsibility for the work among the Jews (known as The Gospel Witness to Israel) in the city of Winnipeg. This would also include the transfer of the property which the Conference now owns in that city. (c) That the South Side Mission in Minneapolis be taken over by the three district conferences in the U.S.A., and that the three members of the board be members of the Central District Conference. (d) That the said districts continue to gather funds on the same basis as heretofore for the support of the mission. (e) That we (U.S.A. districts) contribute enough money to the city mission treasury to take care (also) of the A. A. Smith pension and ask the city mission board to administer the same. GCY, 1954, pp. 136, 137.

1957 —Transfer of city missions to districts completed

(At the General M.B. Conference held in 1957, the chairman of the Central District Conference, Brother G. S. Warkentin, reported as follows: At their 1956 convention the Central District Conference declared itself willing to assume full responsibility for the South Side Mission in Minneapolis, Minnesota, provided, the Southern and Pacific Districts would release the property of the South Side Mission to the Central District. At their 1956 conventions the Southern and Pacific Districts voted to give the release. The operation of what used to be the South Side Mission but is now the Mennonite Brethren Church of Minneapolis

was transferred to the Board of Home Missions of the Central District Conference in February of this (1957) year. We are happy to state that the church in Minneapolis is doing well and progressing. The transfer of the property is now in the hands of the Board of Trustees.)

That the report be accepted with thanks, and (that) the Conference herewith thanks the Board (of city missions) for their work which they have ably completed. GCY, 1957, p. 105.

HOME MISSIONS

1878 to 1888 — Home missions

From 1878 to 1888 the Conference regulated the home missions endeavor on the Conference floor each year. This endeavor consisted in (a) Promoting evangelism throughout all the M.B. churches, (b) Approving certain qualified brethren for this service, (c) Assigning time-schedules to the various churches, and to the brethren serving as evangelists. (d) Gathering offerings for the Conference treasury to support this work. (e) Paying the evangelists and traveling elders a certain amount per year or month, and paying their traveling expenses. (f) And hearing reports of the work at each annual convention of the Conference. GCY, 1879 to 1888.

1889 —Conference appointed a committee to work out a plan of procedure in home missions

(a) That a committee be elected by the Conference which is to prepare an evangelization schedule for the various churches, suggest the evangelists and their compensation, and present the plan (to the Conference) for approval. (b) That the elders ask some brethren to assist them (this group to be the committee) in working out a plan,

and then submit it at the next (business) session. GCY, 1889, p. 84.

1889 —Elected committee reported its plan regarding home missions

(The special committee elected by the Conference to study the method and manner of spiritual nurture and evangelization within the Conference reported the following): (a) Evangelization. That if means permit, the engagement of two evangelists is necessary for the whole Conference. These could, with guidance from the churches, conduct revival services wherever there are open doors, whether within the constituency or outside of our churches. If there be unused funds left, additional brethren be engaged by the month. (b) Spiritual care (Seelenpflege). That, according to the command of our dear Lord, elders have the first responsibility to feed the sheep and the lambs, which (ministry) requires more than merely preaching on Sundays. The care of church members requires much of the elder's time, and since, according to Scripture, the ministers who dispense spiritual food are entitled to material sustenance, it would be necessary that the elders be first provided with, say, \$100 to \$200 per year, according to circumstances and the amount of work. It would be well to remit these church contributions to the Conference, and that the Conference control the disposition (of these funds).

The special contributions in question would be designated especially for evangelism and for spiritual care (support of elders), in order that at (subsequent) Conference meetings there need be no further pro and con discussion, even when the one (general) treasury is low in funds, the other treasury need not be affected thereby. Both treasuries could be conducted by the same brother, who would transmit the funds to the

respective committee. (c) Stations. That if a station does not have less than 50 members, and has talent able to teach, as well as willingness and means to support an elder, in that case such station may be organized into a (local) church.

That if we are agreed and willing to proceed in a regulated manner, it would not be difficult for us to pray to be granted faithful brethren with the necessary gifts, and the support would also be easily forthcoming. Should our churches not accept this (plan), we still believe that herewith we are providing a plan toward which our treasuries should aspire in order to save the Conference difficult work in the future. Herewith we are placing our recommendation at the feet of our Lord, and before the church (Conference) for consideration, yet with the prayer to God that the well-being of our church and the honor of the Lord might be promoted thereby.

The above report was accepted to be adopted at the next Conference. It should also be noted that there now were two distinct treasuries: (1) The foreign missions, and (2) the treasury for spiritual care and evangelism. The latter being the forerunner of the home missions treasury. GCY, 1889, pp. 89-91.

1890 — Wedel called to evangelization in home missions

(a) That Brother P. H. Wedel devote his calling to evangelism. (b) That the Conference refund to the school association the amount invested in Wedel's education at the rate of \$150 per year. (c) That Brother Wedel be allowed \$100 for his evangelization service during summer vacation. GCY, 1890, pp. 101, 102.

1890

Note. Various other brethren were assigned to spiritual care ministry and others to evangelization. GCY, 1890, pp. 105, 106. GCY, 1891, pp. 115, 116.

1891 — Treasury for support of spiritual care

That contributions toward spiritual care (elder support) made by local churches be left to their own disposal. GCY, 1891, p. 122.

1892 — Local church to decide rate of elder support

(a) That each local church decide how much support to allow its own elder (preacher) and that the Conference review this matter next year. (b) That where local funds are insufficient, the Conference assist from the general treasury. GCY, 1892, p. 137.

1893 — Evangelization in Saskatchewan and Manitoba

(a) That \$100 be allowed for (evangelism) work in Manitoba... and leave the engagement of an evangelist to the church (there). (b) That \$30 be allowed as a monthly salary to Brother G. Wiebe to visit Saskatchewan. (Reports and approval of work in the various other churches were accepted). GCY, 1893, p. 151.

1894 — Evangelism in Oregon

(a) That (since Brother P. H. Wedel plans to make a visit to Russia) he be released and allowed \$200 from the treasury. (b) That the balance of the funds be distributed among the various fields and that Oklahoma, Manitoba and Saskatchewan be remembered first. (c) That Brother J. J. Regier work for

the Lord in Oregon for two months and be compensated with \$150, traveling costs included. (Other fields were allotted workers and funds). GCY, 1894, pp. 163, 164.

1895

Note. The term “Innere Mission” (home mission) appears first in the report of 1896, p. 182. During the period from 1895 to 1901 the Conference heard reports of the work by the evangelists and from the churches, made allotment of workers and funds, which were accepted by the Conference. GCY, 1895, pp. 173, 174; 1896, pp. 181-184; 1897, pp. 195, 196; 1898, pp. 204-206; 1899, pp. 212-214; 1900, pp. 221-224; 1901, pp. 236-238.

1902 — Change in method of assigning evangelists and funds

(a) That the salary and traveling expenses (of an evangelist) be treated separately in order to be fair to the appointed (preacher) brother, as well as to the contributors of mission funds . . . That, therefore, the traveling costs be estimated at the Conference, and funds for the same be reserved in the treasury. After the evangelist has made his trip, he sends the bill to the treasurer who pays it. Should the treasurer not have sufficient funds in reserve, in that case the Conference repays whatever amounts and expenses he has advanced (from private funds). (b) That the annual salary of our evangelists be set at \$450 plus traveling expenses, and if serving less than a year, at \$30 per month plus traveling costs. (c) That the chairman of the Conference appoint a committee to prepare a schedule recommending the names of evangelists and the places they are to serve, and present this plan at the afternoon session. GCY. 1902, pp. 261, 262.

1902 —The above temporary committee

To work out an evangelization schedule reported back to the Conference. Taking into consideration the numerous wishes of the churches, the committee proposed a schedule, assigning the evangelists and allotting the time to the various churches over the Conference. Any subsequent regulation of the matter during the year to be left to the standing committee on home missions. The schedule was reported to and approved by the Conference. GCY, 1902, pp. 262, 263.

1902 —Creation of a permanent advisory committee on evangelization in the churches

That all leaders of churches and stations in the future constitute an advisory committee (vorberatendes Komitee) which at the time of the preliminary session of the Conference takes into consideration the requests from the churches for evangelists, and the places where work is desired, and then prepares a plan to be presented by the home missions committee to the Conference. GCY, 1902, pp. 263, 264.

1903

Note. The reports about evangelization in the churches during the past year were accepted. But the advisory committee created in 1902 reported that it was unable to present a schedule of work for the ensuing year due to the lack of a sufficient number of evangelists available for the entire year. Therefore a smaller committee of six members was appointed to work out the schedule (accordingly). GCY, 1903, pp. 276-278.

1904

Note. The home missions work was approved. The assignment of evangelists and the allotment of time and funds was done by the advisory committee as before, but the Conference decided that Brother N. N. Hiebert (who was in demand for evangelization work) devote his entire time as traveling missionary, visiting all the churches, in the interests of foreign missions. GCY, 1904, pp. 298-308. Note. Home missions ordered as in previous years. 1905, pp.326-332.

1906

1906, pp. 347-349. GCY, 1905-1906, pp. 298-349.

1906 —Home missions report as usual, but Conference expanded in home missions

(a) That since Dallas and Portland, Oregon, are asking for a full-time evangelist...Brother P. C. Hiebert be engaged with a full year's salary . . . with the understanding that in case Brother Hiebert be sent as missionary to India, he be released voluntarily. (b) (Since a number of families have moved from Oklahoma to Michigan, and are asking for help) That Brother Abr. Richert visit the group . . . and be allowed \$70.44, traveling expenses included. (c) That E. Zahorodny serve for one month among the Russian Brethren and sisters at Balfour, North Dakota. (d) That J. F. Harms work among the Russian people in Saskatchewan, with \$45 compensation, traveling expenses included. GCY, 1907, pp. 353-356.

1907

Note. Brother M. M. Just, secretary of the

committee on home missions presented a report, and a schedule of work was presented by the committee. GCY, 1907, pp. 366, 367, 374, 375.

1908

Note. In 1906 the Conference decided to draw up a constitution that would include regulations for all Conference activities. This constitution was presented to the Conference in 1907, and finally adopted in 1908. It included regulation of home missions (Innere Mission) by the following provision: Leadership. Home missions is to be under the direction of a committee of three brethren: chairman, secretary, and treasurer. One of the members is elected at each annual Conference for three years... The committee, under the leadership of the chairman, is to gather accurate information about the status of home missions, to assist in expanding the same, and to present the needs to the Conference, and is also to find the necessary workers and recommend them to the Conference. Constitution, 1908, paragraph 3, "Home Missions."

1908 — Work among Russians in North Dakota and Saskatchewan

(Because of the great interest among the delegates, free-will contributions were received during the noon intermission for evangelization among the Russian people which amounted to \$139 and the Conference decided) That the \$139 be turned over to Brother J. F. Harms as support for work among the Russians in North Dakota and in Saskatchewan.
GCY, 1908, p. 393.

1909

Note. The report by the committee on home missions and by the evangelists was

accepted. Since it was agreed in 1909 that the Conference meet only every third year, the home missions endeavor was delegated to the district conferences. GCY, 1909, p. 419.

1909 — Home missions delegated to the districts

(a) That M. M. Just serve as secretary of the committee on home missions until the committee is dissolved through the expansion of the Conference (into districts).
(b) That since there is to be no Conference next year (1910 to 1912), the home mission endeavor be regulated so that every district has its own home missions treasury and home missions committee. (The delegates of the various districts met to effect the following provisional arrangement): (1) That the northern district meet at Herbert, (Sask.), in June or July.. . (2) That the central district meet in Minnesota .. . (3) That the southern district meet at the Ebenezer (M.B.) church, Buhler, Kansas. (4) (In each case the district delegates elected a home missions committee of three members, designating a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.) (c) That the funds which may be on hand at the end of the Conference year be equally divided among the three districts. GCY, 1909, pp. 419, 420.

1912 to 1919

Note. During the years 1912 to 1919 no reports on home missions appear in the General (M .B.) Conference records. This endeavor had been delegated to the districts since 1909. But, in order to achieve a more systematic report of the home missions endeavor of the district conferences it was decided: *

1919

*That all secretaries of the committees on home missions of the various district conferences constitute a committee of which Brother W. J. Bestvater serve as main secretary. GCY, 1919, p. 504.

1921 — Statistical report on home missions

(a) That the Conference request Brother (W.J.) Bestvater to send in his statistical report (on home missions done in the churches of the districts) before the Conference yearbook is printed. (This report did not yet appear in 1921 since the churches had not sent in their reports to the statistician). (b) That this (home missions) committee continue, and gather statistical information (on home missions — the work of the churches in the districts). GCY, 1921, p. 53.

1924 — Statistical report on home missions and on compensation to evangelists

(A request came from the floor that the statistical report on home missions which was not yet on hand, be obtained and included in the Conference yearbook). (a) That the Conference desired the continuation of this service (a report on the work by the churches in the districts) and that Brother W. J. Bestvater serve another three years. (b) That no home missions evangelist of a district Conference be engaged by another district conference before first conferring with the home missions committee of the respective district. (c) That where possible, to try to achieve a uniform compensation for home mission evangelists, in as far as local circumstances permit. GCY, 1924, pp. 61, 62.

1927 — Election of a new statistician for home missions

(Since Brother Bestvater is loaded with school work and other services) That Brother A. A. Schroeter be charged with the work (of statistician on home missions). GCY, 1927, p. 49.

1930 — Conference statistics

(By 1930 the nature of a report on home missions had radically changed. By this time the report was purely statistical and included information about the churches in the four districts of the Conference under the following headings: Districts — northern, central, western, southern. Summary information on: churches reporting, Conference membership, added by baptism, added by letter, loss through death, loss by letter, loss by excommunication, (present) membership, Sunday school classes, Sunday school pupils, choirs, singers, evangelization carried on, Bible conferences, number of elders, number of ministers, number of deacons, church property valuation.) (a) That the report be accepted, and Brother Schroeter be thanked (for his service), and be elected for another three years. (b) That the report (by the local churches) for the General (M.B.) Conference be prepared and sent in every three years (to the statistician) on the last New Year before the ensuing Conference. (c) That a simple (uniform) bookkeeping be introduced in order that the assembled information can be entered in a book and preserved for the Conference for the future. (d) That the expenses connected with this work and the necessary bookkeeping records be paid from the Publication treasury. GCY, 1930, pp. 54, 55.

1930

Note. By 1921 the Conference had created a

committee listed as “committee for evangelization” consisting of a main secretary elected by the Conference (who later became the statistician) and the secretaries of the various district conferences. This committee was to keep the Conference informed on what was being done in the local churches by way of evangelization. Its report was gradually made more inclusive and became the statistical report of the Conference prepared every triennium by the statistician. GCY, 1921, p. 76; 1924, p. 80; 1927, p. 72; 1930, p. 63 and 76.

1933

Note. Statistical report accepted. GCY, 1933, pp. 51-54.

1936

Note. Statistical report accepted. GCY, 1936, pp. 63, 71 and 73. The constitution adopted by the Conference in 1936 provided for a home missions committee consisting of a statistician elected by the Conference, and the secretaries of the committees on home missions of the various districts. Constitution, 1936, p. 30.

1939 — Manual of instruction

(The recommendations of the home missions committee were accepted). (a) That in regard to the instruction of our youth in the fundamentals of Holy Scriptures, and our distinctive position, . . . a manual be prepared in question and answer form. GCY, 1939, p. 39.

1939 — Uniformity in singing and use of hymnals

(The committee had been assigned the task of finding a way of achieving greater

uniformity in general singing and the use of hymnals in Mennonite Brethren churches). (b) That this matter be further evaluated by the district conferences. GCY, 1939, p. 39.

1939 — Expense allowance

That \$15 be allowed for expenses, and \$25 for the labor (of the statistician, A. A. Schroeter), and that it be paid out of the Publication treasury. GCY, 1939, p. 39.

1943

Statistical report accepted. GCY, 1943, pp. 69-71, and 81.

1945 — Acceptance of recommendations by home missions committee

(By 1945 the scope of home missions and the assignment of the committee had become somewhat vague. But a desire was expressed on the Conference floor to strengthen home missions. The chairman of the Conference instructed the home missions committee, which included the secretaries of the home missions committees of the various districts, to meet and prepare some recommendations. . . . The committee brought back the following recommendations, which were adopted by the Conference): (a) That we carry out the program of the constitution as provided for on page 30 (“That the committee consists of the statistician, elected by the Conference. . . for three years, and the secretaries of the committees for home missions of the district conferences. . . that the statistician serves as the executive secretary of the committee. . . that the committee collects information. . . regarding the conditions of the churches and the branches of work. . . that the statistician arranges the collected material and draws up a statistical report. . . that the committee is at the same time the connecting link in the

home mission work of the district conferences and offers opportunity to give and receive information on this branch of work, so that the home mission work can be done as uniformly as is possible.) (b) That the committee meet once a year to formulate plans to carry out the program. That the chairman and executive secretary determine time and place of meeting. That traveling expenses be financed by respective districts. (c) That the present district conference secretaries serve in the General Conference committee for a period of three years. (d) That a General Conference fund be created for the cause of aiding in establishing Sunday schools, mission stations, and smaller churches. GCY, 1945, pp. 27, 28, 68, 125.

1948 — Recommendations of home missions committee adopted

(a) Tenure of service. That the district conference home missions secretaries who are in office at the time of the General Conference serve throughout the three years of the Conference term in order to stabilize the committee. GCY, 1948, p. 41. (b) Exchange of evangelists between districts. That the committee keep a list of active evangelists who may be available for work in other districts. Only evangelists who enjoy the endorsement of their own district board... be placed on the General Conference list. District conference boards or individual churches may obtain the list of available evangelists on request, directing their request to the statistician of the General Conference. This being a new function of this committee... it is hoped to have the active support of the district conference boards (of home missions) in making this information available. (c) Salaries of evangelists and home mission workers. That this committee through the office of the statistician attempt to have up to date

information regarding the salary schedule paid conference workers in their respective districts. That this information be compiled and relayed to the district boards at intervals, in order that all may have the necessary information to facilitate the establishment of a uniform schedule. (d) Support of ministers of underprivileged churches. That the district conference boards (of home missions) should attempt to cope with the problems of their own districts. If, however, the problem is beyond the ability of the district board, the case may be reported to the General Conference committee, which will direct an appeal to the churches of the other districts for assistance of that needy district. (e) Reports and charts. To thank the committee for its great effort in bringing these reports, and to make available these reports and charts to each pastor. GCY, 1948, pp. 41-45.

1951 — 1951 resolutions on home missions

(a) That the home missions board meet annually for the purposes as outlined in the constitution. (b) That to make this possible... the Conference establish a home mission treasury and transfer from the last Sunday's home missions offering the amount necessary to secure the functions of the home mission board. (d) That the financial needs of the statistician be met from the approved \$500 granted the home missions committee. GCY, 1951, p. 21.

1954 — Establishment of a committee on evangelism

(After the statistical report had been accepted with gratitude, the Conference adopted the following): (a) That the membership of an active evangelistic committee be composed by the appointment of one member by each participating district

or province through the respective home mission boards. That this evangelistic committee of the participating districts or provinces... not... replace, but... supplement the district efforts in evangelism. (b) That the officers of said evangelism committee be made up of chairman, secretary, and treasurer for the Conference interim. (c) That this committee... be responsible for the appointment of an evangelist or evangelists for the participating districts within the General (M.B.) Conference. (d) That this committee be charged with the setting up of an operating budget. GCY, 1954, pp. 128-133.

1957 — Report by committee of home missions accepted

That the report on home missions, and the statistical report be accepted, and that Brother A. A. Schroeter be again elected. GCY, 1957, pp. 44-48.

1960 — Report by committee of home missions accepted

That the report by the committee of home missions, and the statistical report be accepted, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Brother A. A. Schroeter (to continue as statistician of the Conference). GCY, 1960, pp. 100-106.

1963 — Report of statistician accepted

That the statistician's report be accepted, and that Brother Vernon Wiebe be elected to serve as Conference statistician. GCY, 1963, pp. 50-56.

1963 — Provision of the new constitution

The 1963 M.B. Conference constitution provided a consultative committee on home

missions "to consist of the statistician elected by the Conference at large for a term of three years and of the chairmen or secretaries of the U.S.A. district home missions boards and the chairmen or secretaries of the Canadian provincial home missions boards.... The duty of the committee shall be 'to serve as consultative body and shall gather and make available statistical and other information on the progress of home missions and report to the Conference on data of general interest.'" M .B - Conference constitution, pp. 37 and 68.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

1945 — N.A.E. affiliation

That the General (M.B.) Conference make application for association with the National Association of Evangelicals for the following reasons: (a) To support morally the stand against modernism. (b) To have in times of need an adequate representation for our foreign missions activities, in case our own institutions are unable to take care of this. (c) To remain in contact with evangelical efforts in the Sunday school work. GCY, 1945, p. 74.

1948 — N.A.E.

That our Conference continue its relationship with the NAE for the present on the basis of the General Conference decision of 1945, GCY, p. 74. GCY, 1948, p. 102.

1951 — Annual contribution to N.A.E.

That in view of the splendid services the National Association of Evangelicals is rendering to the cause of evangelical Christianity the world over, we contribute \$350 annually to said association from our Conference treasury. GCY, 1951, p. 122.

1954 — N.A.E. debt liquidation

That since, due to various legitimate reasons, the NAE has incurred a sizeable debt and has appealed to the various conferences that all members or associate members rally to the need... the Conference contribute \$200 for the aforesaid purpose. GCY, 1954, p. 20.

NAME OF THE CONFERENCE

1963 — Name change of Conference

That in the light of the study by the Board of Reference and Counsel (See study, GCY, 1963, pp. 43-45), the name of our brotherhood shall be "The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches." GCY, 1963, p. 45.

NATURALIZATION (CITIZENSHIP)

1921 — Securing citizenship papers

That the Conference suggest the contacting of the proper Senator in this behalf. GCY, 1921, p. 53.

NON-RESISTANCE

1902

Note. The 1902 Confession of Faith of the Conference cited "Non Resistance" as follows: "We also do not consider ourselves to have the right to wield the sword." GCY, 1919, p. 502.

1919 — Non-resistance

(a) That the sentence in the 1902 Confession of Faith be deleted, and that the following paragraph be added: "For on the matter of war we believe and confess, that the way it is waged by the western powers, it is

manifestly contrary to the principles of the kingdom of Christ, and therefore our members are forbidden to participate in it. We much more have to wage a spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness, that rule in the air. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6: 12). And Jesus says: Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword (Mt. 26:52). "Know ye not what manner of spirit ye are of? For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them" (Lk. 9:55, 56). "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence (Jn. 18:36). And the Apostle Paul says (2 Cor. 10:3-6), "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

Therefore we take our stand with Peter and the other Apostles: We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

(b) That a (temporary) committee be appointed to present the following amendment to the churches for consideration: "We consider the children of our members, who have not yet been baptized, as belonging to our church household, as long as they have not on their own accord joined another church." GCY, 1919, pp. 502, 503.

1919 — Committee on non-resistance created

That a committee on non-resistance be created to whom matters relating to non-resistance can be referred. (The following three brethren were appointed: H. W. Lohrenz, Gerhard Wiens, and John Berg). GCY, 1919, p. 504.

1921 — Report by temporary committee

(The committee appointed in 1919, to present the amendment [See above (b) GCY, 1919, p. 503] regarding children not yet baptized, reported that the amendment had passed by a vote of 63 to 12. Members of this committee were H. W. Lohrenz, John Berg, H. A. Neufeld). GCY, 1921, p. 52.

1921 — Statement to U.S. President

That the Conference send a writing of recognition and appreciation to President (Warren G.) Harding, in recognition of the President's interest in the question of demobilization and abolition of war. GCY, 1921, p. 52.

1924 — Report raised to resolution

(That the report be adopted as follows): (a) That in regard to the purpose of the (two Mennonite peace conferences which had been attended by two members of the committee on non-resistance, and by two other brethren) conferences, as we understand it, namely, to create a non-war world, we believe, that the same cannot be attained until the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Himself shall return. (b) Yet we believe, that, first, it is our duty to proclaim the message of peace through our walk, in the home, in the Sunday school, in the church, in our community (Is. 52:7). (c) Second, we consider it our duty to maintain

the position to our Government, stated in Jer. 29:7, and in 1 Tim. 2:1. This includes that we endeavor to influence our government, especially the legislative body, to maintain peace and to abstain from war. (d) We believe that our greatest mission consists in proclaiming the Gospel of Salvation, which leads to the renewing of the inner man, for without regeneration no true and lasting peace, can be attained (Rom. 12:1, 2; 8:1,2,5,6; Gal. 5:6).

Our position is clearly stated in paragraph 67, Confession of Faith, (revised edition). Confession of Faith, 1958, pp. 42-44. (e) We do not believe that the (peace) conference was held in vain, even though we cannot wholly agree with the program that is to achieve the final (warless world) end. Such conferences are useful for stimulation and preparation, in that they contribute the following:

1. They stimulate us and our youth to a Christian walk, through which the divine light can shine.
2. They lead to a united front in our position, in case war breaks out again, as to the position we are to take in regard to the military draft, the wearing of the military uniform, and what type of service our young men may accept.
3. They offer an opportunity to unite our efforts in the alleviation of physical distress, when great devastations result from war, pestilence or accidents.

1924 — Committee on non-resistance to continue

(a) That the committee on non-resistance continue. (b) That the committee remain alert and continue to work, in order to give direction in case of emergency. GCY, 1924, pp. 62-65.

1927 — New committee on non-resistance

(Brother Gerhard Wiens, member of the committee on non-resistance up to 1927,

reported that since times had been tranquil during the past three years, little had been done by the committee, and recommended that the Conference adopt the Southern District committee on non-resistance to serve as committee of the General Conference). That the committee of the Southern District composed of the brethren P. C. Hiebert, P. S. Goertz, and P. R. Lange, be requested to serve (as committee on non-resistance of) the General (M.B.) Conference. GCY, 1927, pp. 66.

1930 — Re-election of committee on non-resistance

That the Conference thank the committee (Hiebert, Goertz, Lange, for their service during the past three years) and request them to continue to serve until the next Conference. GCY, 1930, p. 59.

1933 — Committee on non-resistance presented its report under the name of committee on public relations

Note. The committee gave a report and some recommendations, but there is no record that these were adopted by the Conference. GCY, 1933, pp. 60, 61.

1936

Note. The committee on non-resistance (Hiebert, Goertz, Lange) presented its report and some recommendations, but there is no record that the latter were adopted. GCY, 1936, pp. 60-63.

1936 — Merger of committee on non-resistance with committee on relief

(Note: the 1936 constitution of the Conference reduced the boards and committees to a membership of five). That in the committee on relief and non-

resistance, the following brethren serve: P. C. Hiebert, J. W. Warkentin, D. C. Eitzen, A. E. Janzen, and M. A. Kroeker. GCY, 1936, pp. 60-63.

1939 — Peace, non-resistance, instruction to youth

(a) That the committee on non-resistance prepare a written document clarifying our position, and to enable us to present something specific if called on. (b) That we as Conference approve the organization of the Mennonite Central Peace Committee and our participation in it. (c) That the proposed plan in the interests of the drafted youth, be approved. (d) That the entire matter be worked out with the head of the nation, and be submitted for adoption as soon as practically possible. (e) That we put forth further efforts to teach the members of our churches the way of peace, (1) Through sermon and instruction in the home and in all worship services; (2) Through the distribution of appropriate literature; (3) Through the preparation of reports and addresses that elucidate this endeavor. (f) That by way of instruction and intercession we continue to observe the Sunday before "Armistice Day" as peace Sunday, and in that connection gather an offering for the promotion of the peace movement. (g) That we counsel our youth that is subject to draft, to accept service which helps to preserve life and rehabilitate property, if such service can be rendered under civilian administration, namely, outside of the military organization. (h) That we counsel our members to remain humble but firm in their position of faith, even at the cost of suffering and persecution. To suffer for the faith is no disgrace, and promises reward for time and eternity. GCY, 1939, pp. 50, 51.

1939 — Written document of loyalty under non-resistance

That the delegates of the Mennonite Brethren churches of North America, assembled from Canada and the United States, wish to go on record, (a) As those who love their countries, the United States and Canada, and as those who seek the highest welfare of these lands, and who through loyalty and law obedience as well as cooperation with the respective governments try to express such loyalty through the carrying on of a constructive program of charitable relief, of peace and goodwill toward all men. (b) The delegates further wish to go on record as having no sympathy or connection with organizations of foreign origin who are carrying on propaganda in these countries. (c) The delegates further desire to express their gratitude to the governments of our cherished lands for pursuing a program of liberty and justice toward all men. (Note: The Conference increased the membership by re-establishing two committees: Relief—P. C. Hiebert, D. C. Eitzen, M. A. Kroeker, H. E. Dahl, A. E. Janzen, J. P. Wiebe, C. F. Klassen. Non-resistance—P. C. Hiebert, D. C. Eitzen, M. A. Kroeker, H. E. Dahl, A. E. Janzen.) GCY, 1939, pp. 48-51.

1943

Note. By 1943 this work of the committee on non-resistance and relief was again merged. The positive side of non-resistance found its expression in substitute service under the direction of the committee on General Welfare and Public Relations (through MCC), during the time of the Second World War. GCY, 1943, pp. 59-69.

1943 — Committee asked to continue

That the present committee (P. C. Hiebert,

D. C. Eitzen, M. A. Kroeker, H. E. Dahl, A. E. Janzen, J. P. Wiebe, C. F. Klassen) serve for another term. GCY, 1943, p. 69.

1945

Note. In 1945 the matter of non-resistance as such did not receive special attention at the Conference. GCY, 1945, pp. 31-41.

1948 — Statement of Position on Non-Resistance

(a) That we humble ourselves deeply before the Lord and Master who has purchased us with His own life's blood, because we have not yet learned, in spite of all the grace bestowed upon us, to serve Him more faithfully, in word and deed. (b) That we confess that we, as a Conference, have in the past come far short of the ethical requirements and demands of the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. We have often participated in activities and had our interests in movements that did not contribute to the preservation of human life: on the contrary, they often contributed to the destruction of life. (c) That we recommend to the Conference and to the churches to pray sincerely for a spiritual revival in our denominations: quarrels, mistrust, deception, etc., must be banned from our midst. (d) That every church assume the obligation to instruct her young people in this fundamental principle of our faith —non-resistance. May we emphasize, though, that non-resistance does not only concern itself with the bearing of arms but also with the life in the home, in the church, and in the neighborhood. It is also possible to destroy life with our tongue. (e) That the Conference expects that our men eligible for service, whenever called upon, will render valuable service for our people and country in two channels according to their conscientious convictions: (1) In agriculture and forestry

projects, mental hospitals, and other institutions of civilian character, and in the field of rehabilitation and relief. (2) As non-combatants in the medical corps, not bearing arms nor participating in the training with weapons, rendering services to the sick and wounded soldiers, to nursing and the saving of lives, but not participating in any service that would tend toward the destruction of human life, and no service in defense plants. Arrangements should be made with the government at this time in order that such a way for service in the medical corps may be found. Under no circumstances can our brethren take the military oath. Their sincere affirmation will be sufficient. (f) That our brethren who have so faithfully lived their convictions during the last war and stood so soundly upon our principles of peace hereby receive the heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks of the Conference, and we pray that they may continue humbly in the service of their Lord and Master. (g) That the above principles point out the direction for the future but do not react to the recent past where we have so seriously neglected to definitely point out the way by word and example. Humbly we bow ourselves under the word of 1 John 1:9, "But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Another word of God says, "Go and sin no more, God help us — we can do nothing else. GCY, 1948, pp. 103, 104.

1951 — Modification of statement of 1948

(a) That, forasmuch as the statement on non-resistance submitted by the Committee of Reference and Counsel to the General Conference of the M.B. Church, in August 1948, in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, was slightly changed by the Conference before its adoption, and some parts deleted (and since)... the statement in its final form

closes with a sentence which is contradictory in its relationship to the purpose of the preceding sentence... that the sentence "Their sincere affirmation will be sufficient" be deleted. GCY, 1951, p. 123.

1951 — Additional paragraph added to the 1948 statement on non-resistance

(b) That such as enter military service to participate in the work that destroys human life, should be considered as disobeying principles of Scripture and our confession of faith and in consequence can no longer be considered as members in good standing. It shall be our duty to continue to love them and make them objects of our intercessory prayers as erring brethren who must be sought in an effort to bring them back into the obedience of the Word of God. Such as refuse to obey the due admonition shall be further dealt with according to the Scriptures and their membership in the church discontinued. GCY, 1951, p. 124.

1954 — The 1948 statement on non-combatants rescinded

That because the findings of the investigation (made in Washington, Department of War, October 13, 1954) clearly establish that there exists no avenue for a restricted non-combatant service as proposed by the Mennonite Brethren Conference in its resolution (of 1948, resolution No.5, (b), page 104, GCY), the Conference rescinds the afore-mentioned resolution (of 1948 on non-combatants). GCY, 1954, pp. 114-121.

1957 — Non-resistance defined

That the following augmented statement be referred to the various districts for study and adoption. GCY, 1957, p. 111.

Statement of Biblical non-resistance

(a) The church of Jesus Christ is a fellowship of redeemed individuals. The members of the church are a separated people... called out of darkness into the marvelous light of the children of God. As such we as Mennonite Brethren accept and acknowledge Christ as our Head and the Scriptures as our supreme authority for faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:14-17). This relationship to Christ and this acceptance of authority therefore determines our position toward the question of participation in war.

(b) Non-resistance is a Biblical principle evinced from the very tenor of the New Testament teachings regarding the practical Christian life and is, of course, clearly exemplified by Jesus Christ. To “those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil,” (Heb. 5:14) the doctrine of non-resistance is almost self evident. But Biblical non-resistance is not pacifism; it arises from an entirely different motive, and the two are propagated by two entirely different groups of people. Scripturally speaking, it arises from the fact of the believer’s:

(1) New nature, miraculously imparted when he was born again (Eph. 4:22-24, 31-32; Col. 3:8-10).

(2) New relationship to Jesus Christ, which in turn affects his total relationship to God, to man, and to the world through the acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord (Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 5:1).

(3) New walk prescribed in Scripture, which leaves no room for activities and attitudes naturally expected of soldiers (Rom. 8:1, 4; Eph. 4:1; 5:10, 15; Col. 2:6).

(4) New citizenship and loyalty (Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20, R. V.); there is no New Testament call upon the Christian to fight “a defensive war,” or “war to end war,” or “to save the

world for democracy,” or even to establish a state of righteousness. This leads us to the next logical assertion, i.e., that the doctrine of non-resistance arises from the fact of the believer’s

(5) New warfare (John 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-6). The spiritual warfare as described in these references is in essence diametrically opposed to the methods, instruments and objectives of physical warfare.

(6) New mission. The Christian’s first and foremost duty is to serve and glorify God. This duty is not partial, optional, or secondary. The promotion of the work of Christ is every Christian’s primary mission. The nature of this mission is such that active participation in war, the bearing of arms for the destruction of human life, by a born-again believer constitutes a serious violation of the fixed principle laid down by Christ and Paul as expressed in Luke 9:62 and in 2 Tim. 2:4 respectively. A Christian is not at liberty to take leave from this commission that for a season “he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

(7) New life principle — love. According to Christ, love is the chief mark of discipleship as well as the chief New Testament commandment (John 13:34-35, 15:10, 12, 17-19). Can a man destroy a fellowman while he loves him? The Apostle John holds it is impossible. Speaking of one who “shutteth up his bowels of compassion from his brother,” he asks, “how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 John 3:17). We do not, even as the State does not, believe in “mercy killing,” much less do we believe it possible to kill while we love. Therefore, our path is clear; we dare not be motivated or determined in our actions and relationships by anything but love “shed abroad into our hearts” (Rom. 5:5), and “faith that worketh by love” (Gal. 5:6). Hence, we cannot take human life even in self-defense.

(c) Practically speaking, the living out of the principle of Biblical non-resistance is but

daring to apply to our daily activities and relationships what Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation, has taught and exemplified and is but one phase of virile discipleship. The principle of non-resistance, therefore, is not limited to war. We believe and teach that it applies to every phase of our life, to all relationships, personal, social, economic, political, national and international. The whole of the Christian personality must be integrated around the Person of Jesus Christ as He has revealed Himself in redemptive love according to the Scripture (Luke 6:29-37; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 5:23).

(d) War is evil, brutal, and inhuman. The fact that Jesus said “there shall be wars and rumors of wars” cannot justly be construed to be His stamp of approval upon war. As one militarist has said, “War is the sink of all evil.” It glorifies might, greed, lust, and selfishness. The nature of war has ever been, is now, and will remain to be incompatible with the new nature, relationship, walk, citizenship, loyalty, warfare, mission and principle of life of the regenerated Christian (James 4:1-5). Paul admonishes the Ephesians to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Though the context does not here directly deal with the activities and consequences of war, what words could better describe them?

(e) Every person is an eternal soul. The New Testament allows the Christian only one view of man; we look upon every person as a soul for whom Christ died” (1 Cor. 8:11), needing to be, and potentially capable of being saved. How dare we cut short his days and thereby his chances to accept the grace of God?

(f) Our loyalty is to our Government. We declare our unequivocal loyalty to our government and gladly owe our duty to respect, obey, pray for and be subject to the powers that be.” Our services and properties are at the disposal of our government for the

alleviation of need and the saving of lives. We are willing to sacrifice for our country and the welfare of others. In case of a conflict between the demands of the State and the laws of God, however, the Christian ought to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29).

(g) Exhortation to our young men. We, therefore, exhort our Christian young men to live consistent with the Scriptural teaching and historic testimony of our Brotherhood and challenge them to accept the provision of civilian service which our government has made, realizing that this provision offers an acceptable expression of our Scriptural objection to war (1 Cor. 15:58) but under no circumstances to accept responsibilities that demand the destruction of human life. These things we believe and teach: These are our convictions: In the words of the great Martin Luther: “Here we stand; we can do none other, so help us God.”

In the meantime we are eagerly looking for and hastening unto the day of our Lord’s return when Christ, the Captain of our Salvation, will rapture the Church, and then together with His saints come back to earth as the Prince of Peace to establish His kingdom of righteousness and men shall learn war no more. ‘And they shall not hurt nor destroy... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Is. 11:9). GCY, 1957, pp. 111, 112, 113.

1960

Note. The matter of non-resistance had again become a part of the larger sphere of general welfare and public relations and was not specifically alluded to in the 1960 report by the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations. This Board by this time had also merged with the members of general welfare of the K.M.B. Conference. GCY, 1960, pp. 115433.

1963 — Booklet on The Mennonite Brethren Church Statement on Non--Resistance presented to the Conference by the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations

Note. The contents of this booklet are based on the statement submitted to the Conference in GCY, 1954, pp. 121, 122, and augmented by the statement of the Board of Reference and Counsel as presented to the Conference in GCY, 1957, pp. 111-113.

(That) The Church speaks on non-resistance: In stating our convictions we establish no new doctrine, but merely restate the historic faith which our forefathers confirmed on several occasions. Our youth faces the issue of participation in war, which obligates us to a clear restatement of our position, thereby reaffirming and strengthening our belief in non-resistance.

Non-resistance is a Biblical principle clearly exemplified by Jesus Christ.

The church as the body of Christ is a fellowship of the redeemed. Therefore the members are a separated people (John 17:16). They accept Christ as their pattern (1 John 2:6). Their lives are controlled by redemptive love (Romans 5:5).

Since the responsibility of the church is to represent Christ, its Head, and to evangelize the world, participation in any form of war is impossible for its members.

The practice of the redeemed in Christ demands that every phase of their lives in all relationships, such as personal, social, national, and international, be governed by the supreme law of love, and is not limited to abstinence from military service. It is a general attitude of the Christian as he seeks the redemption of his fellow men.

Human life is sacred unto God, and a Christian has no right to destroy life.

War is evil, brutal, and inhuman. It glorifies might, greed, and selfishness. The nature of

war remains incompatible with the new nature of a regenerated Christian.

We declare our sincere loyalty to our government and believe it our duty to respect, obey, and pray for our rulers. We would be "subject to the powers that be." In case of a conflict between the demands of the state and the laws of God, the Christian 'ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

We exhort our Christian young men to live consistent with the Scriptural and historic testimony of our brotherhood on peace and challenge them to accept the provision of civilian service which our government has made, realizing that this service offers a fuller expression of our Scriptural objection to war. GCY, 1963, pp. 112, 113.

OFFICE BUILDING (CONFERENCE)

1945 — Conference office building

(a) That the Conference provide an office building for Conference activities and for the fireproof storing of valuable Conference documents and literature at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000, to be located at Hillsboro, Kansas. (b) That in view of the pressing need to provide living quarters for missionaries on furlough or retired and for missionary children while attending school, the Board of Missions recommends to the Conference the erection of a suitable building or buildings. (c) That the Conference go on record to encourage our brethren and sisters who in gratitude to the Lord feel led to do so, to leave gifts, legacies, and memorials for this purpose. GCY, 1945, p. 25, and p. 47, paragraph 3.

ORDINATION, RULES CONCERNING

1896 — Publishing of names

That the Conference publish the names of all

ordained brethren in the Conference reports. GCY, 1896, p. 192.

1904 -- Ordination of ministers and deacons

That the Conference continues to endorse the former procedure of our churches that only elders officiate at ordinations of ministers and deacons. GCY, 1904, p. 319.

1907 -- Ordination of evangelists and other workers

That brethren such as evangelists and other conference workers that may be called upon in their visiting of other churches to serve at the Lord's table, perform or officiate at baptisms or marriages, should be ordained by their respective congregations. GCY, 1907, p. 379.

1919 -- Ordination of missionaries

That the Conference recommends that the home churches do the ordaining as well as outfitting of missionaries who have been accepted by the M.B. Conference and are to go out for service. GCY, 1919, p. 482.

1921 -- Officiating at ordinations

That the Conference deems it advisable that only elders officiate at the ordination of ministers. GCY, 1921, p. 53.

1933 -- Importance of ordination and uniformity of procedure

(a) Importance. That in view of the great importance of public recognition that the laying on of hands carries with it for a worker (minister, deacon) in the churches, and in view of the fact that an ordained brother is also given recognition in the other churches of the Conference, the Conference

finds itself compelled to proceed uniformly in the performance of the act of ordination in the churches. (b) Procedure. That when a local church desires to ordain a brother, it makes this desire

known to representatives of the neighboring M.B. churches for consideration. If the neighboring churches recommend the ordination, the respective local church then requests an elder, experienced (minister) brother who enjoys the general confidence in the constituency, to perform the act of ordination. GCY, 1933, p. 65.

1943 -- Ordination by other denominations

That it has been the practice of our church (M.B. Conference) to abide by the principle that we do not recognize ordinations of other denominations with the exception of those of the K.M.B. church. GCY, 1943, p. 76.

1957 -- I. Ordination, commissioning, licensing

Note. This question had been raised in 1954 -- GCY, 1954, pp. 6, 7, 22. (a) *Ordination*. That ordination to the Gospel ministry, at home or abroad, under the sponsorship or auspices of the Mennonite Brethren Church ... be extended exclusively to Christian workers who are acceptable for the ministry of the Word within the framework of the M.B. Church and such who are definitely and honestly desirous to labor within said framework. GCY, 1957, p. 106.

(b) *License*. That licensing distinguishes itself from ordination in that (1) It is only for a specific Christian work project and for a specified period of time. (2) It may be renewed or terminated at the discretion of the licensing body. (3) It authorizes a given person to preach the Gospel, baptize believers, admit members, administer the Lord's Supper and feet washing, marry

couples and officiate at funerals but only within the confines of said Christian work project. (4) For the exercise of the above enumerated ministries elsewhere, the licensee must have an invitation and secure the permission of the committee to whom he is directly responsible. (5) The initiation for the licensing of, [1] A church worker must come from the supervising committee and be channeled to the home church through the church council. [2] In case the licensed worker is to serve in a district conference mission project, the initiative is to be taken by the home mission board of the respective district. [3] If... the licensee is to serve in a General Conference mission project, the initiative is to be taken by the respective General Conference committee, and in all cases, channeled to the home church through the church council. GCY, 1957, p. 106. (c) *Commission*. (Commissioning of sisters). That in view of the fact that we as an M.B. Church, on the basis of clearly conceived Scriptural convictions, do not admit sisters to the public Gospel preaching ministry on par with brethren, we as Conference designate the fact of setting aside sisters to missionary work a "commissioning" rather than "an ordination." GCY, 1957, p. 106.

1957 -- II. General policies governing the selection and Licensing of ministers

(a) *Selection of a worker*. The selection of a worker for an extension project ...in two ways: (1) Inception of an extension project by the individual or by a couple. That the inception of an extension project is usually the result of the vision or burden of an individual brother or a couple. Generally it starts with a Bible class or a Sunday school class for unchurched children in some home. As the Lord blesses... it grows and in time adults (parents) are attracted. Soon the desire is expressed by them for other Gospel

services. Thus it may slowly develop into a regular and established work which in some cases has the potential of a future church. The mother church hears about it. The worker gives a report. The church is impressed and wishes the worker God's blessing. Thus the work and the worker receive church sanction. The church may even offer to adopt the project, assume the responsibility for its spiritual welfare, and thus it becomes a church-sponsored mission project. Thereupon the church either creates an extension committee or charges a standing committee to supervise the work. By this action the extension worker also is approved to continue in the direction of the work. Henceforth he is responsible to the church through the above-named committee. Indirectly, the selection of a lay minister has taken place. (2) *Inception by a church*. That the church as a body may become burdened for the lost in the community. A committee is elected to find ways and means of starting a Sunday school and of establishing a preaching center. A place is found and a worker or workers are selected. Among these there may be one who shows definite leadership ability, has appropriate gifts and gains the confidence of the mother church. For practical reasons the church may in time consider to license him. GCY, 1957, p. 107. (b) *Licensing of ministers new*. That the licensing of ministers is a new phenomenon in our Mennonite Brethren circles. The need for it and practice of it has arisen directly out of a new movement in our churches known as extension work. The procedure and meaning of licensing a worker has been amply covered in another place of this report. Licensing may be performed upon a brother who is showing sufficient ability, leadership and interest to gain the confidence of the church that he will direct the work in a given extension project in harmony with Mennonite Brethren principles and

doctrines, though he may not have the qualifications prerequisite to ordination. GCY, 1957, p. 107.

ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH

1889 — Requirements for the organization of a church

That when a group of believers numbering not less than 50 members is willing and able to support an elder, such group may organize as a church. GCY, 1889, p. 91.

1927 — Organization procedure of a new church

That we abide by the procedure followed in former years. (Namely), If a group of believers resides at a place where there is no church and they feel the need of organization, they may contact a well organized church in the vicinity, or the home missions committee of that district. Only members of good standing may be accepted by letter. If a letter is not available, the matter should be carefully weighed by responsible brethren. The confession of faith and the constitution of the M .B. Conference should be presented to and adopted by the newly organizing church. After due organization, the home missions board recommends the acceptance of such congregation for Conference membership. GCY, 1927, p. 68.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, CONFERENCE

1963 — Organizational structure of M.B. Conference

That the incoming Board of Reference and Counsel make a thorough study of the organizational structure of the General (M.B.) Conference with respect to its world-

wide implications. GCY, 1963, pp. 41, 42.

OUTSIDE INTERESTS

1907 — Collecting of money by outside interests

That the Conference urges the churches not to permit outside collectors to have privileges to the extent that our own Conference interests suffer thereby. GCY, 1907, p. 379.

1912 — Collectors for outside interests in our circles

That concerning collectors for outside interests it was decided that such persons be referred to the foreign missions committee of our Conference, which after examining the purpose of the collectors, may at its discretion issue a recommendation to the churches that are to be visited. GCY, 1912, p. 446.

1948 — Caution and direction to churches

That (M.B.) churches exercise extreme care in this matter, and anyone representing interests outside of our Conference projects wishing to collect funds in our Conference should first have the approval of the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Any church which is approached by such collectors should refer their names to the chairman or secretary of the Committee of Reference and Counsel and await the recommendation of the committee before permitting the person or persons in question to gather funds. GCY, 1948, p. 101.

PATRIOTISM

1943 — Loyalty to our country

That we confirm our undivided loyalty to our country and to our government, which has graciously provided ways and means affording our young men a chance to serve their country without being compelled to become a part of the military power, which would be contrary to our confession of faith and their consciences. GCY, 1943, p. 67.

PEACE, ON

1939 — On peace

(a) That we make further attempts to teach the members of our churches the way of peace . . . (b) That we continue to consider the last Sunday before Armistice Day” as peace day, through instruction and intercession, and in that connection gather an offering to help promote the peace movement. (See also nonresistance, general welfare and public relations.) GCY, 1939, p. 51.

1943 — Pence Sunday

That we continue to observe Sunday before national Armistice Day as special Peace Sunday. GCY, 1943, p. 69.

1945 — Peace Sunday

That we continue to observe the Sunday before national Armistice Day (November 11) as special Peace Sunday. GCY, 1945, p. 41.

1954 — Witness for peace

That in loyalty to Christ and love to fellowmen (we) present a strong uncompromising witness for peace by a

clear personal testimony, by liberal giving and, if need be, by joyful sacrifice of property, position, conveniences, and suffering for our faith and to continue the Conference established custom of using the Sunday nearest to Armistice Day as peace Sunday. GCY, 1954, p. 114.

1957 — Collaboration with MCC on peace

That we work together with MCC in representation of our Christian principles before government with questions pertaining to peace position. GCY, 1957, p. 101.

1960 — Peace Sunday

That the Conference continue the established custom of observing the Sunday nearest to Veterans’ Day, November 11, as Peace Sunday. GCY, 1960, p. 131.

1963 — Witness through MCC peace section.

(That) \$600 from U.S.A. and \$700 from Canada, (total) \$1,300 (be appropriated for peace witness). GCY, 1963, pp. 114, 115.

PENSION, FOREIGN MISSIONS

1927 — Pension support fund

(a) That the committee on (foreign) missions work out a plan according to which a fund may be created (for the support of retiring missionaries) and present it at the next Conference. (b) Amended: That the plan be sent to the churches (for consideration) and if accepted, authorize the mission (board) directors to begin with the collection (of same). GCY, 1927, pp. 31, 32.

1936 --- Provisional pension provision

(a) That missionaries entitled to pension be paid \$500 per family a year with the provision that they, as much as possible, do deputation work in the churches in the interests of foreign missions... (b) That the Conference nominate a committee of three brethren, who together with the committee on missions, prepare a plan and implement it, as to the manner in which funds for such pension may be accumulated. (c) That in order that the mission treasury not run short of funds, every church annually gather an offering during the next three years for this purpose. GCY, 1936, pp. 33.

1939 — Pension source created

(a) That in every month one Sunday school offering be taken for pension. (b) And if possible, that each respective offering amount to 5 cents per Sunday school member. (c) That if there be brethren or sisters or friends of missions, who wish to contribute voluntary gifts for a pension fund, that (the opportunity for) this remain free and open. GCY, 1939, p. 11.

1943 — Pensions approved

That the following appropriations be approved: Brother N. N. Hiebert, \$500; Sister F. J. Wiens, \$500; Sister J. S. Dick, \$400; Sister B. F. Wiens, \$200. GCY, 1943, p. 30.

1951 — Pension offering modification

That churches which are not using the 5 cents per month per Sunday school pupil, nor have made some other provision by means of which to gather the pension money (for foreign missions) that they cover their participation by one offering for this purpose once a year. GCY, 1951, pp. 56, 57.

1960 — Social Security and pension regulations

(a) Equalization of benefits. That in order to equalize the financial benefits of Social Security and Old Age Pension now available at a small cost in USA and at no cost to the Canadian missionaries... the Social Security tax be paid for the missionaries by the foreign missions treasury out of the pension account. Missionaries who have not entered the Social Security program shall receive only the difference in payment between the amount to which they would have been entitled if they had entered and the maximum figure approved by the Board of Foreign Missions. (b) Sinking fund. That in order to prepare the treasury to meet future demands upon it for old age or pension payments, that a sinking fund be created into which an amount equal to 2 percent or more of the missionaries' salaries be deposited every year to safeguard the treasury's ability in the future to pay the difference between the government or other pension allowance to missionaries and the maximum figure approved for each missionary by the Board of Foreign Missions. (c) Eligibility. That a missionary becomes eligible for pension from the foreign missions treasury after 20 years of service and upon reaching the age of 65. If the 20 years of service is completed before reaching the age of 65, the pension allowance does not become payable until 65. (d) Termination of services. That termination of service in M.B. Foreign Missions also releases the treasury from the obligation of any further Social Security tax payments made for the respective missionary, as well as from any further pension obligations. (e) Special cases. That experiences that result in fatalities which require the missionary's withdrawal from service and which are not covered by the above principles or by provisions in the

M.B. Conference constitution shall be considered on the merit of the particular case. GCY, 1960, p. 80.

PENSION, CITY MISSIONS

1945 --- Pension provision

That when the time comes that Brother and Sister (A. A.) Smith retire from all active service, the Conference provide for an adequate pension for them. GCY, 1945, p. 42.

1957 — Pension for A. A. Smiths

That the Conference instruct the Board of Trustees to provide for the pension of \$60 per month for Brother A. A. Smith who formerly received this pension from the Board of City Missions, which has been dissolved. (Minneapolis City Mission having been turned over to the Central District Conference). GCY, 1947, p. 114.

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

1888 — Delegation to political conventions

That in regard to being delegate to national political conventions, it is strongly advised that, while we desire to have a good government, members should be careful so as not to defile their conscience. However, the Conference does not want to form a definite resolution in this matter. GCY, 1888, p. 70.

1890 — Political involvement

That members of the church refrain from participation and involvement in the contentions of political parties, but are permitted to vote quietly at elections, and may also vote for prohibition.” GCY, 1890,

p.107.

1893 --- Holding public (political) office

That our brethren shall not hold the offices of justice of the peace or constable. A member may be a “notary public.” GCY, 1893, p. 156.

PROGRAMS OF THE CONFERENCE

1948 — Reports and recommendations to be given in printed form

(a) That in view of the fact that our conference program is constantly growing and that the Conference must either extend its time or seek a way to conserve time in order not to do injustice to the last section of the Conference program, be it resolved that all major reports and recommendations be prepared in printed form, and a copy be sent to each pastor in advance to enable the delegation of each church to study the reports and recommendations for a more intelligent approach and quicker action at the Conference sessions. GCY, 1948, p. 109.

(b) That in view of the fact that often motions are not too clearly defined nor too well heard from the floor and therefore indefiniteness and even misunderstanding is being created, be it resolved that the General Conference resolutions committee serving during the Conference sessions, seek to crystallize into a resolution the main thoughts expressed on the floor and write out the motions and present them to the Conference in both languages before they are voted on. GCY, 1948, p. 109.

1951 — Implementation of resolutions

That the Conference go on record to urge the Conference leadership to implement more fully resolution one and two of the 44th General Conference (GCY, 1948, p. 109,

above). GCY, 1951, p. 144.

PROPERTY, DIVISION OF

1881 — Division of property at marriage

That in the division of property in the event of a second marriage, the man should also conscientiously make such division with due respect to the ones involved. GCY, 1881, p. 12.

1887 — Division of property before remarriage

That in case of remarriage, all property arrangements be adjusted beforehand, with good conscience, also observing the laws of the land. GCY, 1887, p. 56.

1902 — Disposition of vacated church property

That where churches are vacated because members have moved away and the property is sold, the proceeds should flow into the foreign missions treasury, unless the members of that particular church find it advisable to use the money for the purpose of erecting other church buildings. GCY, 1902, p. 269.

1945 — Property of the Southern District

That the General Conference turn back the property (church building at Johnstown, Colorado) now in the name of the General Conference, but belonging to the Southern District Conference, as soon as the Southern District Conference is incorporated and requests this change. GCY, 1945, p. 71.

PUBLICATION

1880 — Publication

(a) That regarding releases to periodicals, the Conference desires that important events be released (for publication), including the publication of the yearly reports of the churches, but that such releases be submitted to recognized brethren for approval. GCY, 1880, p. 8.

1883 — Publication of Conference resolutions

That this year's (1883) Conference resolutions be published in the "Rundschau." GCY, 1883, p. 14.

1884 — Publication committee created

(a) That the brethren Abr. Schellenberg, Dietrich Claassen, and J. F. Harms constitute a (publication) committee. (b) That they look after the publication of a written history of the brotherhood and publication of conference reports, reports on visits and news of our fields (of endeavor), and (c) That information for this purpose be addressed to Abraham Schellenberg, Alta., P.O. Harvey County, Kansas. GCY, 1884, pp. 25, 26.

1884

Note. During 1884 there originated within the publication committee the concept and the implementation of publishing an M.B. periodical and to name it *Zionsbote*. Rev. J. F. Harms was chosen editor. During 1884, 1885, 1886, the *Zionsbote* appeared quarterly with some irregularity, in 1887 an attempt was made to issue it monthly. GCY, 1884, p. 25; 1885, p. 35; Hist. M.B.C., Harms, p. 264.

1885 — Zionsbote approved by Conference

(a) That the publication committee elected last year again serve and be charged to publish the *Zionsbote* as well as the Conference resolutions (Conf. reports). (b) That from each church a correspondent send in short reports (to the *Zionsbote*). GCY, 1885, pp. 35, 36.

1886 — Frequency and price of “Zionsbote”

That every church leader inquire of his church and community as to how many copies of the *Zionsbote* are desired, if the subscription be raised to \$1.50 per year and appear weekly, and report this to the editor (J. F. Harms) by December 1 (1886). GCY, 1886, p. 44.

1887 — First salary to editor of Zionsbote”

(a) That brother (J. F.) Harms, editor, be allowed \$50 (from the \$73.95 in the publication treasury) for his service for this year (1887), and that at the next Conference his salary be set in line with the condition of the treasury. (b) To continue with the (monthly) publication as in this year, but it is wished that the *Zionsbote* carry more articles by the brethren. GCY, 1887, pp. 53, 54.

1888 — Zionsbote to appear weekly beginning with January 1, 1889

(a) That \$25 be allowed Brother Harms for his labor with the *Zionsbote* for this year (1888). (b) That after new year (1889) the *Zionsbote* be issued weekly in the present format, and at the same price (50 cents per year). (c) That every brother subscribe for the *Zionsbote* and that in addition a liberal

offering be gathered (in each church) which is to flow into the publication treasury. GCY, 1888, pp. 68, 69.

1888

Note. A wish was expressed by the delegation that the *Zionsbote* also feature news from our foreign missions, and correspondence regarding events within and beyond the church constituency. GCY, 1888, p. 69.

1889 — Zionsbote size doubled

That the *Zionsbote* be doubled in size, and that the subscription price be raised to 75 cents, and that whoever has a heart for the cause, contribute a dollar (per year). GCY, 1889, p. 88.

1890 — Editor’s salary paid from Conference treasury

(a) That the *Zionsbote* again be published at the subscription price of 75 cents per year, but that quite a few (be urged) rather pay one dollar. (b) To allow Brother J. F. Harms \$50 from the conference treasury. GCY, 1890, p. 104.

1891 — Zionsbote

(a) That the members (Schellenberg, Harms, Peter Wall) of the (publication) committee remain the same. (b) That \$25 be appropriated for Brother J. F. Harms from the Conference treasury. GCY, 1891, pp. 121, 122.

1892 — Zionsbote

(a) That the... subscription for the *Zionsbote* be raised to \$1.00, and that whoever is able, pay \$1.25. (b) That \$50 be appropriated from the Conference treasury

for Brother J. F. Harms' editorial services. GCY, 1892, p. 141.

1893 — Zionsbote financial situation improves

(Editor J. F. Harms reported that during the last year the *Zionsbote* had fared better financially). (a) That \$50 from the Conference treasury be allowed the editor, Brother J. F. Harms, for his services. (b) That Brother Harms be asked to serve again the coming year for which he expressed his willingness. GCY, 1893, p. 155.

1894 — Zionsbote

(Again the *Zionsbote* is paying for itself). (a) That Editor J. F. Harms be allowed \$50 from the publication treasury for his editorial services, for which he thanked (the Conference), and (b) He declared his willingness to continue to serve. (c) The Conference requested that a monthly "additional insert" appear with the *Zionsbote* GCY, 1894, p. 166.

1895 — Zionsbote

That the *Zionsbote* with the additional insert continue. GCY, 1895, p. 176.

1896 — Zionsbote

(a) That the *Zionsbote* with the additional insert continue. (b) That Brother Harms continue to edit it. (c) That the Conference express its appreciation to Brother J. F. Harms. GCY, 1886, p. 190.

1897 — Zionsbote

(a) That the *Zionsbote* continue in its present form. (b) That the brethren (of the churches) be encouraged to send in more reports. (c) That the "Zionsbote" be more

generally subscribed to, and paid for. GCY, 1897, p. 197.

1898 — Zionsbote aided by Missions committee

(a) That the *Zionsbote* continue. (b) That at the end of the year the missions committee take into consideration the financial record, and regulate the work accordingly. GCY, 1898, p. 208.

1899 — Zionsbote

(a) That the *Zionsbote* continue. (b) That Brother J. F. Harms continue in the work. GCY, 1899, p. 216.

1900 — Publication scope enlarged

Note. Brother P. F. Duerksen reported by letter that under the Lord's blessings the editing of Sunday school lessons had proved a success during the past year, and that if the Conference would assume this endeavor, it would serve to encourage him. The chairman of the Conference, Abr. Schellenberg, as well as the editor, J. F. Harms, spoke in favor of unifying our publication efforts, enlarging the *Zionsbote*, adding a bookstore. (The Conference decided): That the Brethren H. P. Schroeder, Cornelius Huebert, and Peter Regier, as publication committee, look into the matter and take further steps in its implementation, and also the enlargement of the *Zionsbote*. GCY, 1900, pp. 230, 231.

1901

Note. The publications committee reported its findings in 1901; namely, that the Brethren J. F. Harms, P. F. Duerksen and H. H. Neufeld are willing to turn their publishing enterprises over to, and place their personal services at the disposal of the

Conference. The delegation favored that the publication committee negotiate with the brethren who are engaged in publication, and attempt to unite the efforts provisionally, and seek to gather voluntary contributions for working capital, in order to operate publication on a unified basis. (The Conference decided): (a) That the *Zionsbote* continue on its present basis, with an added insert. (b) That the committee gather funds, and that as soon as sufficient means are on hand, the (total) publication be accepted as a Conference endeavor. GCY, 4901, pp. 246, 247.

1902 — Zionsbote and Confession of Faith

(a) That the *Zionsbote* with the added insert continue. (b) That our (American) revised confession of faith be accepted and published. (c) That Brother J. F. Harms be charged to publish it as an act of the Conference. GCY, 1902, p. 267.

1902

Note. Brother P. F. Duerksen was at this time still successfully publishing the Sunday school lessons, the “Sonntagschul Bote,” and the *Kinderblatt*,” as a private enterprise. The Conference expressed its approval and satisfaction over this ministry, and urged that all churches and stations make use of this Sunday school material. GCY, 1902, pp. 267, 268.

1903 — Buying Central Publishing Company

Note. Brother J. F. Harms reported that on the prevailing basis on which the *Zionsbote* has been published thus far, he cannot continue to publish it any longer, and thus turned it over to the Conference from whom he received the assignment 19 years ago.

The publication committee recommended that the Conference establish a conference publishing house. In the discussion the delegates gave constant evidence of the necessity to provide a conference owned and operated publishing house; for otherwise the *Zionsbote* might discontinue which should be prevented under all circumstances. (The Conference decided): (a) That the publication committee meet with the members of the Central Publishing Company of Hillsboro, Kansas, who were present for consultation. (Upon request Brother P. F. Duerksen of the CPC explained the financial condition of this corporation and announced the readiness of the members to turn this publishing house over to the (M.B.) Conference. Those of the brethren who were members of the CPC offered to donate their shares to the Conference. When the question of accepting Central Publishing Company was put to the delegates, there still was hesitancy - Brother J. F. Harms stated that under such circumstances, he would no longer be able to devote his services to the ministry of publication. This resulted in a very serious reconsideration of the consequences that would result from the discontinuation of our literary endeavors, and thus a number of the brethren (delegates) expressed willingness to do their part to acquire a publishing house of our own. After this sentiment gained momentum, D. D. Ediger made the motion, which was accepted without opposition): (b) That the Conference accept the offer of the Central Publishing Company, and provide a committee of seven brethren who are to further implement the matter. (c) The general sentiment was that J. F. Harms remain editor of the *Zionsbote*. (d) Into the committee were elected David Dyck, Manitoba; Heinrich Voth, Minnesota; J. J. Kliewer, Nebraska; Johann Foth, H. P. Schroeder, David Buschman, Kansas; Peter Regier, Oklahoma.

GCY, 1903, pp. 289-291.

1903 — Effort made to buy Central Publishing Company

Note. The Conference elected committee met after the Conference together with J. F. Harms and P. F. Duerksen and several other brethren and organized itself as follows: Johann Foth, chairman; H. P. Schroeder, asst. chairman; David Buschman, treasurer; Peter Regier, secretary. The committee decided to solicit in the home churches with a view of raising the necessary funds in 30 days to purchase the Central Publishing Company. The moneys were to be sent to David Buschman who was to publish the receipts in the *Zionsbote*. GCY, 1903, p. 291.

1904 --- Purchase of CPC failed

Note. Brother Johann Foth, chairman of the publication committee reported that the purchase of Central Publishing Company did not materialize. That the churches favored that the Conference own its own publishing house, and to publish the *Zionsbote* according to the old format, which, however, seemed impractical. He also reported that \$1,600 as had been estimated, was found insufficient to purchase machinery adequate for our publication needs. Besides, additional Russian letter type, plus other unforeseen materials had to be purchased. That several hundred dollars are needed for more type, and \$300 for working capital. Also, that the publishing house be relocated so it is more convenient and less expensive for the brethren involved, to meet. (The Conference decided to leave matters as they were) and (a) That Brother Johann Foth, Ebenfeld, serve as chairman and Brother J. K. Hiebert, Ebenfeld, as treasurer for one year. (b) That Brother J. F. Harms remain editor of the

Zionsbote. (c) That other matters be ordered by the (publication) committee. GCY, 1904, p. 316.

Note. Funds for facilities of the printing press were to be sent to J. K. Hiebert, and subscriptions for the papers, to J. F. Harms, Medford, Oklahoma. GCY, 1904, p. 317.

1905 — A debt-free printing house, and literature for Russian people

(a) That the *Zionsbote* continue in its present form and that appropriate ads be accepted for publication. (b) (General satisfaction was expressed in regard to the S.S. pamphlets, and decided) That the Brethren J. F. Duerksen and D. D. Bartel prepare and edit them in the future. (c) That Brother J. F. Harms be engaged as editor for another year with a salary of \$500. (d) That the Conference appreciates the efforts of Brother J. F. Harms to have succeeded to establish for it a debt-free printing press and expresses its thanks. (e) That all donated funds for the bookstore be sent to J. K. Hiebert, Hillsboro, and payments for *Zionsbote* and Sunday school lessons leaflets and the like to J. F. Harms, Medford, Oklahoma. (Note. Brother Harms reported that up to this time there had been no capital for the bookstore, but that a brother had loaned \$100 for Bibles, and that whoever desired to aid the ministry of publication had an opportunity in this manner. The chairman of the Conference recommended that books, Bibles and tracts be ordered from the [M.B.] publishing house since they could be obtained here as cheap as elsewhere). (f) (Regarding need for Christian literature for distribution among Russian Christians in America, which could be edited by Brother Herman Fast and printed in our publishing house, it was decided): That the delegates present this to their home churches and recommend an offering for this purpose. The money to be sent to Brother J. F. Harms. (g)

That the present publication committee serve another year. GCY, 1905, pp. 338, 339.

1905 — “Golos”

Note. The 1905 Conference delegation approved the production and publication of literature for Russian people in America, provided this endeavor would be approved by the churches of the Conference. The churches did approve it. The brethren J. F. Harms and Herman Fast (editor) started the publication of a periodical in the Russian language, and named it “Golos” (Voice) GCY, 1905, p. 339.

1906

At the 1906 Conference Brother Harms reported that the “Golos” was being well received by the Russian people. This was also verified by the Russian Brother Zahorodny who was present at the Conference. GCY, 1906, pp. 357, 358.

1906 — Thanksgiving offering subsidy, Sunday school lessons, and “Golos”

(a) That half of the Thanksgiving day offerings by the churches go for the support of the matter of publication, and the other half toward the production and publication of Christian literature for Russians. (b) That J. F. Duerksen and H. W. Lohrenz be requested to write the Sunday school lessons at the same rate of compensation (as heretofore) (Since D. D. Bartel requested to be relieved from his part of this assignment). (c) That the “Golos” (the monthly publication) continue and be enlarged if the finances permit, and that the subscription remain 25 cents per year, and that Brother Herman Fast continue as editor. GCY, 1906, pp. 357, 358.

1906 — Relocating the M .B. Publishing House

(a) That the printing office be moved from Medford, Oklahoma, to McPherson, Kansas (because there would be a greater income from job work). (b) That the publication committee be charged to look after the matter of finding an editor and the relocation of the publishing house. (Brother J. F. Harms had requested to be relieved, and negotiations were in process with Brother A. L. Schellenberg as editor). (c) That the following brethren be elected to order the matter of publications: J. F. Harms, editor; John Harms, chairman; J. 3. Wall, assistant; 3. K. Hiebert, treasurer; Abr. L. Schellenberg, secretary. GCY, 1906, pp. 359, 360.

1907

Note. It was reported in 1907 that Brother J. F. Harms had resigned as editor; that A. L. Schellenberg succeeded as editor. That the printing office had been moved to McPherson, Kansas, and that the M.B. Publishing House was in good condition. GCY, 1907, p. 376.

1907 — 1907 Publication resolutions

(a) That an offering be gathered as compensation still due Brother J. F. Harms. (The offering amounted to \$108.45). (b) That funds to the amount of \$1.00 per capita be gathered in the churches to pay for the purchase of the building (for the publishing house in McPherson) and that the delegates cordially present this matter to the churches. (c) That since Brother J. F. Duerksen is no longer able to write his share of the Sunday school lessons, Brother N. N. Hiebert be nominated to take his place. (d) That the “Golos” continue, and that a standard typewriter be provided for editor Herman

Fast, to lighten his work. (e) That all moneys for the matter of publication be sent to editor A. L. Schellenberg. (f) That one half of the Thanksgiving Day offering be designated for the “Golos” and the other half for city missions. GCY, 1907, pp. 376-378.

1908 — Appreciation to new editor, “Golos” in question

(a) That a thank you be extended to the editor, and that his work receive approval. (b) That Brother A. L. Schellenberg be again engaged as editor of the *Zionsbote*. (c) That since Brother H. W. Lohrenz has requested to be relieved from his assignment to write part of the Sunday school lessons, Brother N. N. Hiebert be engaged as editor of the S.S. lessons, and be given the liberty to choose assistants. (d) That since the future publication of the “Golos” is fraught with difficulties, one half of the Thanksgiving Day offerings in the churches be designated for distribution of Christian literature among the Russians, and, if possible, to continue the publication of the Golos, but to leave the (final) decision to the publication committee. GCY, 1908, p. 395.

1909 — “Golos” to continue if possible, change to three-year term

(a) That the conduct of the (publishing) business and the work of the *Zionsbote* be approved. (b) That (in spite of the difficulty of producing it) to continue the publication of the “Golos,” if at all possible. (c) That since the matter of publication will not come up for discussion until the next (triennial) conference, to elect (the following for three years) into the publication committee: Brother Johann Harms, chairman; J. J. Wall, assistant; J. K. Hiebert, secretary; and A. L. Schellenberg as manager. (d) To elect Brother N. N. Hiebert for three years as editor of the Sunday school lessons. (e) That

the publication committee be given the liberty to relocate the publishing house (from McPherson) to another place, if it can be done without sustaining a financial loss to the Conference. (f) That Brother A. L. Schellenberg be re-elected as editor of the *Zionsbote* for three years. GCY, 1909, pp. 420, 421.

1912 — “Golos” has discontinued, relocation of publishing house left to committee

(a) That the administration of publications as reported by the manager be approved. (b) That those (church) members who have not paid \$1.00 towards the publication of the *Zionsbote* do so during the current year (1912), and if this does not cover the deficit, that free-will offerings be gathered (in the churches) for this purpose. (c) That the \$210.69 which is still in the treasury for the “Golos” (which had now been discontinued) be left in the treasury for the time being; that one half of the Thanksgiving Day offering be sent in to the publication committee towards providing Christian literature for the Russian people; and that the publication committee confer with the brethren in Canada to explore the possibility of publishing the “Golos” again. (d) (That since Brother J. J. Wall wishes to withdraw) the Brethren A. J. Richert, J. K. Hiebert, and Johann Block be elected into the publication committee. (e) That A. L. Schellenberg be thanked for his work and (again) be elected as editor. (f) That Brother N. N. Hiebert be thanked for his work as editor of the Sunday school lessons and be reelected for this service, and that he be free to choose assistants. (g) That the matter of relocating the publication house be left to the publication committee in line with the 1909 Conference resolution (GCY, 1909, p. 421) GCY, 1912, pp. 441-443.

1913

Note. In 1913 the publishing house was relocated from McPherson to Hillsboro, and the Hillsboro Vorwaerts was purchased. In 1915 the publishing house moved into its newly constructed building. In 1939 the “Vorwaerts” was changed to the “Hillsboro Journal.” (Mennonite Encyclopedia, pp. 604, 605.)

1915 — Publication of the “Vorwaerts” to continue

(a) That the (publication) business together with the “Vorwaerts” be continued. (b) That A. J. Richert, 3. K. Hiebert, and Johann Block be re-elected (to the publication committee). (c) That the “Golos” (discontinued since 1911) funds still in the hands of the publication committee, be utilized in the interests of the publication matter, and that the moneys which are on hand in Saskatchewan for this purpose, may be used to assist the Russian brethren (to help pay for their church building). (d) That Brother N. N. Hiebert be again elected editor of the Sunday school quarterlies. GCY, 1915, pp. 466-468.

1919

Note. Brother A. L. Schellenberg resigned as manager and editor of M .B. publications.

1919 — Editor Schellenberg and family honored, J. D. Fast new editor, J. F. Duerksen followed N. N. Hiebert as editor of the Sunday school quarterlies, price of Zionsbote and Vorwaerts raised to \$1.50.

(a) That a word of thank you be conveyed to the entire A. L. Schellenberg family ... and that in love and appreciation a gift of \$100 be transmitted to the family, because Brother Schellenberg devoted thirteen years

of the best part of his life to the publication ministry. (b) To retain the managerial and editorial responsibility in one person. (c) To engage Brother 3. D. Fast (who had served as assistant for several years) as manager and editor of publications. (d) That the issuing of the *Zionsbote* and the provision of devotional reports from the churches be left to the publication committee. (e) That the readers in Canada not request refunds for the time during which they did not receive the *Zionsbote* (which had been temporarily prohibited from circulation in Canada during war time). (f) That the subscription price of the *Zionsbote* and the Vorwaerts each be raised to \$1.50 (per year). Whoever paid in advance, need not pay the raise for the unexpired time. (g) That the Conference thank Brother N. N. Hiebert for his ministry with the Sunday school lessons (1907-1919), but since he is overloaded with work, to accept his resignation. (h) That Brother J. F. Duerksen be engaged as editor of the Sunday school quarterlies. GCY, 1919, pp. 497, 498.

1921 — Bookstore, special articles and correspondents for Zionsbote

(a) That in order to expand its business, the publishing house be authorized to add a bookstore. (The publishing house purchased the bookstore which Professor D. E. Harder had owned and operated for a period of years in Hillsboro). (b) That the new publication committee employ an additional person to benefit the publication endeavor. (c) That the editor be authorized to request various persons to write special articles of a devotional and inspirational nature for the *Zionsbote*, but (with the safeguard) that the general participation of other persons from all the churches not be diminished thereby. (d) That every church have a correspondent for the “Zionsbote”; and another person who receives a list of subscribers (from the publishing house) who are in arrears, who

collects subscription money, solicits new subscribers, and in that manner represents the publications endeavor. GCY, 1921, pp. 47, 48.

1924

Note. In 1922 Brother A. L. Schellenberg was called back to serve as editor and manager of M.B. publications. Brother J. F. Harms again edited the major part of the *Zionsbote*, and Brother P. H. Berg, besides assisting as manager, had charge of the bookstore.

1924 — Publication manager and the committee

(a) That A. L. Schellenberg serve another three years as manager. (b) That the present publication committee (A. J. Richert, J. K. Hiebert, and Johann Block) serve another three years. (The editor also member of the committee). GCY, 1924, p. 48.

1924 — Sunday school committee created (See Sunday school).

Note. Up to 1924 the matter of the S.S. lessons had been dealt with as part of publications. The production and selection of the material had been the responsibility of the Sunday school lesson editor or editors under the sanction of the publication committee. In 1924 a Sunday school committee of nine members was created, (refer to S.S.). This committee apparently did not function, since there is no report by it at the next (1927) Conference, nor was such a committee re-elected. The matter of the publication of Sunday school materials therefore remained with the publication committee and the editor of the Sunday school quarterlies. GCY, 1924, pp. 47, 48.

1927 — A. L. Schellenberg again elected editor and manager

(a) That six candidates be nominated (for the publication committee election). (The following were elected, J. K. Hiebert, H. J. Pankratz, and J. K. Warkentin). (b) That by acclamation A. L. Schellenberg be elected as manager for three years. GCY, 1927, p. 41.

1930 — Resignation of A. L. Schellenberg accepted

(a) That the M.B. Conference finds that the accusations of the Brother, editor and manager serving up to the time of this Conference, are not valid, and sorrowfully regrets that publication of the same (in *Zionsbote* No. 21, 1930) was not in the spirit of the Lord Jesus. (b) That the Conference recognizes the demonstrated business efficiency of Brother A. L. Schellenberg as is evidenced by the financial development of the Publishing House, but sorrowfully regrets his unbrotherly and hostile attitude during the last period of his service, as was expressed among others in his final words. The Conference considers his final statement in *Zionsbote* No. 21, as a definite resignation (from his office) and decides to accept the same, going into effect immediately. (c) That we as a Conference interpret the paragraph regarding control and management of the publishing house to mean, that the administration is a matter of the whole (publishing) committee, and that neither the manager nor any other one person of the committee has the authority to make single-handed decisions in weighty (principal) questions. GCY, 1930, p. 44.

1930 — P. H. Berg chosen editor and manager

That since Brother P. H. Berg has been actively connected with publications as assistant manager and manager of the bookstore since 1922, and during recent

years has conducted the entire business with success, that he serve as editor and manager until the next (1933) Conference. GCY, 1930, p. 44.

1930 — New youth magazine proposed

(a) That a four-page periodical be initiated in the interests of Sunday school and our youth, in order to keep our youth informed on the activities of our churches, young peoples societies, and our missions, and to foster and promote the spiritual life of our young people. (b) That the proposed young people's periodical appear equally in two languages. (c) That the further implementation be left to the (publication) committee. GCY, 1930, p. 45.

1930 — Surplus to go for education

(a) That any surplus in the publication treasury be applied towards home missions in general, and more particularly toward education and schools; this, however, not in a measure that would hinder the (publication) business or prevent and impede necessary expansion. GCY, 1930, p. 45.

1930 — Publication committee elected by ballot

That the publication committee be elected by nomination and ballot. (Result of election: J. K. Hiebert, H. J. Pankratz, Herman Rogalsky. The editor remained a member of this committee). GCY, 1930, p. 45.

1930 — Regarding enlargement of Zionsbote content

That the Conference recommend to the new manager together with the publication committee, that if possible to make the

content of the *Zionsbote* more comprehensive, and if feasible, to add one or another department. The details to be left to the brethren (of the management and committee). GCY, 1930, p. 45.

1933 — Expansion postponed, assets reappraised, manager and committee re-elected

(a) That though perhaps desirable to enlarge the (publication) business in several directions, including the establishment of a small book bindery, but because of the uncertain (economic) conditions, to postpone expansion for the time being, and operate the publishing endeavor on the basis on which it has been carried on during the past several years. (b) That for at least the following Conference interim, we retain the office of manager and editor in one person as provided by our present Conference statutes. Otherwise greater operating costs would be incurred, and we recommend to economize. (c) That Brother P. H. Berg, who has shown himself tried and approved during his long years of service, be again engaged as Conference editor and manager for the next Conference term of three years. (d) That in the light of prevailing conditions the assets of the M.B. Publishing House be re-appraised downward from a total of \$52,650.74 to \$31,317.93. (e) That we thank the publication committee and the entire staff of the publishing house for their faithful service during the past Conference term. (f) That the publication committee, Brother Herman Rogalsky, Brother J. K. Warkentin, and Brother H. J. Pankratz, be re-elected for three years. GCY, 1933, pp. 50, 51.

1933 — Sunday school editor re-elected

That Brother N. N. Hiebert be re-elected for another term of three years. GCY, 1933, p.

50.

**1936 — English periodical proposed.
Birth of Christian Leader**

That in view of the fact that the language issue is becoming constantly more acute in our Conference churches, and (because) it is our desire to supply our youth with appropriate literature, but on the other hand also (wish) to accommodate our older brethren and sisters . . . that the Conference earnestly evaluate whether it is not timely to publish a paper in the English language. (first) temporarily once a month, later probably more often, in the size of the *Zionsbote*, with the same number of pages, in order to meet the needs of our English speaking young people . . . and at the same time to request our conference people to help promote this effort by sending in numerous subscriptions for this (new) paper. GCY, 1936, p. 39.

1936 — A Sunday school committee (again) elected

That the Conference elect a committee to promote the Sunday school work in our Conference, and which together with the (publication) manager plan to achieve uniform procedure in the ordering of Sunday school lessons for the younger classes, and for Sunday school literature as a whole. The committee to recommend the best and most suitable (material) available on the market, insofar as it cannot be produced by our own publishing house, and the Conference churches should then abide by the recommendation of the committee in ordering this material. GCY, 1936, p. 39. (See S.S. p. 223).

1936

Note. The revised constitution adopted in

1936 called for a committee for publications consisting of five members, including the business manager; all five to be elected by the Conference. M .B. Constitution, 1936, pp. 32, 33.

1936 — Election of manager and committee for publications

(a) That Brother P. H. Berg again be elected as business manager and Conference editor for an additional term of three years. (b) That into the committee for publications the following brethren be elected for a conference term of three years: Herman Rogalsky, P. E. Schellenberg, H. J. Pankratz, and Adam Ross. GCY, 1936, p. 51.

1939 — English section added to “Vorwaerts”

That because of the need of an English paper for the community, something be done in this respect: either the publication of an eight-page paper in the English language, or that in the local section of the “Vorwaerts” pages 1,4,5, and 8 appear in the English, and the other four pages in the German. The general issue of the “Vorwaerts” to remain basically in the German as heretofore. This (change) would be a great accommodation to our business people and result in greater income from ads. GCY, 1939, p. 20.

1939 — Sunday school quarterly in English

That in regard to an English Sunday school quarterly for the younger classes, to publish a 64-page Sunday school quarterly containing only one “introduction,” one text, based on a graded adaptation of the International lessons, but containing three expositions for pupils of the primary, junior, and senior departments respectively. The

expositions (are) to be written by three different persons in order to achieve greater scope. We recognize this as an urgent need for the sake of achieving more uniformity in the Sunday school work. (B. J. Braun, P. N. Hiebert, and Mrs. Sam G. Pankratz were engaged by the publication committee as editors). GCY, 1939, p. 20.

1939 — Election of editor, manager and committee

(a) That we accept the recommendation of the publication committee to engage Brother P. H. Berg as manager for another three years. (b) That the engagement of an editor for the *Zionsbote* be left to the publication committee. (c) That (as a result of the election) the Brethren H. J. Pankratz, D.C. Eitzen, Adam Ross and P. E. Schellenberg serve in the publication committee. GCY, 1939, p. 21.

1939 — Traveling secretary

That (in regard to a secretary traveling in the constituency to represent the various Conference endeavors) the choice of a brother to serve as traveling secretary be left to the board of trustees, the school committee, and the publication committee, since he is primarily to represent the interests of these three branches (of Conference endeavors). GCY, 1939, pp. 21 and 59.

1939 — Sunday school committee and editor

(See Sunday school) GCY, 1939, p. 21.

1943—Note

In 1939 the name of the "Vorwaerts" was changed to "Hillsboro Journal" and became a bilingual paper appearing weekly in the same form to local as well as outside

readers. In 1941 Brother Orlando Harms was added to the staff as assistant manager and editor of the Journal, serving in that capacity until 1946.

1943 - Subscription prices raised

(a) That the Hillsboro Journal be raised in price from \$1.50 to \$2.00. (b) That the price of the Christian Leader be raised from \$0.50 to \$1.00. (c) That the prices go into effect July 1, 1943. (d) That the price of the *Zionsbote* remain as before (\$1.50). (e) That the price of the "Lektionshefte" and the graded Sunday school lessons be raised somewhat in order that the Sunday school editors and writers can be given better compensation. GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1943--Election of manager, editor, board

(a) That the present incumbent, Brother P. H. Berg, be reelected as manager of the M.B. Publishing House for another Conference term. (b) That because of the pressing uncertain conditions. . . the manager of the M.B. Publishing House (also serve as editor of the *Zionsbote*). (c) That the following serve in the publication committee: B. F. Wall, D. C. Eitzen, H. J. Pankratz, and J. K. Warkentin. GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1943 – Sunday school editors

(See Sunday school) GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1943 - Sunday School Committee

(See Sunday school) GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1943 - Sunday school recommendations

(See Sunday school) GCY, 1943, pp. 56, 57.

1945 - Improvement of plant, printing tracts

That the committee be authorized to make such improvements and changes in the plant and function of the publication as it deems necessary and advisable for the best service of our constituency even to the extent of printing tracts, etc., for free distribution. GCY, 1945, p. 65.

1945 - Zionsbote to continue in the German language

That we continue to publish the *Zionsbote* as much as conditions permit in the German language. GCY, 1945, p. 65.

1945 - "Christian Leader" becomes semi-monthly paper

That the change in the frequency of the publication of the "Christian Leader" from a monthly to a semi-monthly edition be made as soon as this can be carried out without too much interference. At the same time the subscription price of the Leader be changed from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per year. GCY, 1945, p. 65.

1945 - Election of editors and committee

I a) That Brother P. H. Berg be reelected to the office of manager of the publishing house and also as editor of the *Zionsbote* for another Conference term of about three years. (b) That Brother H. P. Toews be elected as editor of the *Lektionshefte*. Ic) That the Brethren B. J. Braun, P. N. Hiebert, and Sister S. G. Pankratz be reelected to write the Sunday school lessons, graded series. (d) That the following be elected into the publication committee: J. K. Warkentin, H. J. Pankratz, D. C. Eitzen, B. F. Wall. GCY, 1945, pp. 65, 66.

1948 - Improvements and new buildings

That the publication committee be

authorized to make such improvements and changes in the plant and function of the publication as it deems necessary and advisable for the best service of our constituency even to the extent of purchasing additional buildings for floor space. GCY, 1948, p. 88.

1948 - Zionsbote to carry some English

That we continue to publish the *Zionsbote*, as much as conditions permit, in the German language. This should, however, not bar obituaries and missionary reports written in the English language. GCY, 1948, p. 88.

1948 - Election of manager, editor, and committee

(a) That Brother A. J. Voth be elected to the position of manager. (b) That Brother P. H. Berg be elected to the position of editor of the *Zionsbote*. (c) That the following be elected into the publication committee: A. W. Epp, H. B. Kliewer, Elmo Warkentin, H. F. Klassen. GCY, 1948, p. 89.

1951 – New equipment

That the board of publications be authorized to spend approximately \$20,000 within the next three years for securing new or rebuilt equipment to replace the present worn out and obsolete equipment and also be empowered to finance the purchase if necessary. GCY, 1951, p. 82.

1951—Zionsbote

That we continue to publish the *Zionsbote* as our Conference German language paper. GCY, 1951, p. 82.

1951 — "Christian Leader"

(a) That we are not now doing justice to our English speaking constituency in providing

an adequate English weekly Conference paper and that it is in order for the Conference to consider publishing such an organ. (b) That as soon as arrangements can be made and conditions permit, we begin to publish an English language weekly paper. This organ to be implemented by January 1, 1952, if possible. (c) That the “Christian Leader” be regarded as the official English language Conference paper until the above organ materializes, and that . . . the “Christian Leader”.., be incorporated into the proposed English weekly in the form of a youth section. (d) That the publication board be authorized to secure full time editorial help as needed. GCY, 1951, p. 82.

1951 — “Hillsboro Journal”

That we as a Conference are no longer justified in publishing the “Hillsboro Journal” for the following reasons: (a) The publication of the organ takes too much staff time to justify its continuation. (b) This staff time can be better utilized for other Conference publications and Conference work. (c) That, therefore, disposition of the Hillsboro Journal be made. GCY, 1951, p. 82.

1951 - Conference papers to be placed into every home

That the board of publications be encouraged to find ways and means of making it possible for our Conference organs to be placed in every home of our church constituency. GCY, 1951, p. 83.

1951 — Management

That the present administrative and editorial staff (A. J. Voth, manager, P. H. Berg, editor of the *Zionsbote*, and the Sunday school lesson staff) be retained in their respective positions until such time when the newly-

elected board of publications will make further arrangements, but at least until the end of the current fiscal year which ends September 30, 1951. GCY, 1951, p. 83.

1951

Note. At this time a revision of the Conference constitution was in progress. Inline with the enlargement of the membership of the board of publications called for in the proposed constitution, the following seven members were elected: Elmo Warkentin, A. W. Epp, P. E. Schellenberg, H. F. Klassen, Sam Wiens, Dan Penner, H. P. Toews. GCY, 1951, pp. 219, 220.

1954 — Zionsbote and missions issue

That the *Zionsbote* continue to be issued as a weekly paper and that a monthly “missions issue” be produced, provided that satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Board of Foreign Missions and with Canada. GCY, 1954, pp. 71, 72.

1954 — “Christian Leader” to continue as bi-weekly publication

That the “Christian Leader” continue as a bi-weekly publication and that changing it to a weekly publication with a corresponding increase in subscription price be postponed until the subscriptions reach approximately 3,500. GCY, 1954, pp. 71, 72.

1954 — “Lektionsheft” and “Adult Quarterly”

That the German “Lektionsheft” and the “Adult Quarterly” be continued as they appear at the present time... including the items of (a) editors, (b) arrangements, and (c) languages... and translating the materials from the present Adult Quarterly into the

German for use in the Lektionsheft, and the translation of the German verse-by-verse expositions of the Lektionsheft into the English for use in the Adult Quarterly. GCY, 1954, pp. 71, 72.

1954 — Fund for book publication

That the M.B. Publishing House establish a fund for the purpose of providing aid in the preparation and printing of books, and receive gifts for this fund. GCY, 1954, pp. 71, 72.

1954 — Vote of thanks to editor P. H. Berg

That, as a Conference, we show our appreciation to Brother P. H. Berg, who has worked for 32 years in the publication field of our Conference, by giving him a vote of thanks. GCY, 1954, p. 72.

1954

Note. Administration and board of publications. Beginning with the 1951 provisional constitution, the manager and editors were engaged by the board of publications, not by the Conference as heretofore, and were no longer members of the publication board. During the interim of change from Conference election to board appointment, the management of the M.B. Publishing House changed as follows: A. J. Voth, manager, September 2, 1948 to November 10, 1952; P. H. Berg, November 10, 1952 to January 1, 1953; J. J. Gerbrandt, January 1, 1953 to January 1, 1954; Orlando Harms, January 1, 1954—. The board of publications elected in 1954 was as follows: H. B. Kliewer, D. C. Eitzen, Roy Just, H. F. Klassen, Dan S. Penner, C. E. Fast, Sam Wiens. GCY, 1954, pp. 65 and 188.

1957 — Publishing House deficit to be re-

imbursed by Board of Trustees

That since the Conference ordered the M.B. Publishing House to print the Conference periodicals at a loss, that the Conference through its Board of Trustees assist the publishing house to the amount of \$5,000. GCY, 1957, p. 20.

1957 — Importance of publications

That because of the importance of publications and realizing also that our periodicals and writings tend to become a matter which is easily taken for granted, we believe it necessary to remind ourselves that the Conference, the Board of Publications and the Publishing House must each be vigilant that our publication service fulfills its obligations toward God and man.... GCY, 1957, p. 62.

1957 — Unifying the publication work

That for the sake of unifying the publication work of our General Conference, and to avoid unnecessary duplication and to serve the Conference and the Kingdom of God more effectively~ efficiently and economically... that we strive toward the amalgamation of the M.B. Publishing House at Hillsboro and the Christian Press, Limited, Winnipeg, into one publication effort of our General Conference, operating at the present at two locations, to be administered by a representative board from the U.S.A. and Canada. GCY, 1957, p. 62.

1957 — Official Conference paper for each home

That ways and means be found cooperatively with the Canadian Conference whereby an official English or German organ of our General Conference be gotten into every home of our constituency in the

U.S. and Canada, as a unifying link for our entire General Conference. GCY, 1957, p. 62.

1957 — Responsibility to produce adequate literature

That realizing the need and our responsibility before God and our Conference for sponsoring and producing literature within our Conference for young people, Christian nurture, missionary and evangelistic outreach, and in many other areas, ... efforts towards meeting these needs be begun as soon as sufficient operating capital is on hand. GCY, 1957, pp. 62, 63.

1957 — Prayer and other support

That the Conference go on record to support the publication work in prayer and in any other ways possible. GCY, 1957, p. 63.

1957 — Vote of appreciation to David Letkeman

That the Conference give a vote of appreciation and gratitude to Brother David Letkeman for his ten years of service as editor of the *Adult Quarterly*. GCY, 1957, p. 63.

1957 — Zionsbote and Christian Leader changes

(a) That beginning with January 1, 1958, the *Zionsbote* be produced as a 16-page bi-weekly periodical instead of a weekly periodical at the present subscription rate of \$2.50 per year. This move is being planned to avoid a printing deficit on the *Zionsbote* as much as possible. (b) That beginning with January 1, 1958, the "Christian Leader" be produced as a 24-page bi-weekly periodical instead of a 16-page and that the

subscription rate be \$3.00 per year. GCY, 1957, p. 63.

1957 — Board of publications

That the following be elected: D. C. Eitzen, 6 years; L. J. Franz, 6 years; Walter Wiebe, 3 years, at large; Marion Kliewer, 3 years, serving out the unexpired term of Brother Clarence Fast who resigned from the board. GCY, 1957, p. 63.

1960 — Merger of "Christian Leader" and "Christian Witness"

That in view of the merger of the two Conferences, the M.B. "Christian Leader" and the K.M.B. "Christian Witness" be merged into one periodical as of January 1, 1961, to serve the needs and interests of the merged body. GCY, 1960, p. 114.

1960 — Recommendation regarding unification by Board of Reference and Counsel

(After having heard the requests from the General Conference Board of Publications and the Canadian Board of Reference and Counsel) The Board of Reference and Counsel (a) Reaffirms the position taken at the Yarrow Conference in 1957 with reference to a unified program in publication (GCY, 1957, p. 62). (b) To implement this unified program the Board of Reference and Counsel recommends: (1) That the Board of Reference and Counsel of the General Conference meet with the present Board of Publication and the Canadian Board of Publication and work out suggestive steps leading to a united voice in one Conference periodical. (2) That the findings and a definite program leading to the above-mentioned objective be presented to the Canadian and U.S. Conferences in session in 1961. (3) That the news releases of General

Conference interest be made available to both the M.B. Publishing House in Hillsboro, Kansas, and the Christian Press at Winnipeg. GCY, 1960, p. 115.

1960 — Election of board members

That the following brethren be elected to the Board of Publications: David Ewert, Canada; Marion Kliewer, Dan S. Penner, Vernon Wiebe, U.S.A.; Walter Wiebe, at large. GCY, 1960, p. 115.

1963 — Relinquishment of Canadian Conference equity in M.B. Publishing House at Hillsboro

That, since the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the Canadian Conference recommends two independent publishing houses of the areas, one in Hillsboro, Kansas, and one in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and since the Canadian Conference has accepted this recommendation, the Conference... relinquishes its share in the Hillsboro publishing house... And the (Canadian) Conference renounces its share in the publishing house at Hillsboro and recognizes it as the property of the U.S. area (Conference) in the future. In this way each area... (has) its own publishing house. GCY, 1963, p. 39.

1963 — Acceptance by U.S. Conference of M.B. Publishing House at Hillsboro

That, whereas, at the 1961 convention the U.S. Conference accepted the General Conference Board of Reference and Counsel recommendation that there be a United States publication committee to operate the future U.S. Conference-owned publishing house in Hillsboro, and, that, whereas, the transfer of the Hillsboro publishing house to the U.S. Conference is envisioned as being finalized at the 1963 General Conference

session: (that, therefore) the U.S. Conference declares itself willing to accept the M.B. Publishing House of Hillsboro... offered through the proper channels, and... pledges... prayerful support of the Canadian publication interests and trusts . . . (the) brethren from Canada will find it in (their) hearts to intercede on our behalf as well. GCY, 1963, pp. 39, 40.

1963 — Christian Literature Commission

That, inasmuch as there is a great need at home and abroad for the production of appropriate Christian literature in the form of books, pamphlets, etc., and inasmuch as the printed page is of tremendous influence in the world today, and inasmuch as proper literature offers a great opportunity to represent our Mennonite Brethren faith and church and to promote the purpose and program of our Conference... there be appointed... by the Board of Reference and Counsel a five man commission to study the establishment, organization and function of a Christian Literature Board and to report to the Board of Reference and Counsel before the next General Conference session. GCY, 1963, p. 41.

1963 — Zionsbote termination

That the General Conference publish the *Zionsbote* until January 1, 1965, at which time all remaining subscriptions be transferred to the "Mennonitische Rundschau." GCY, 1963, p. 138.

1963 — Vote of thanks to editor, Orlando Harms

That (the Conference) give Brother Orlando Harms, who has faithfully served the Conference for many years (under General Conference, Jan. 1, 1954 to January 1, 1965), a vote of thanks by asking the

delegates to stand. (The delegates stood)
GCY, 1963, p. 138.

RACE RELATIONS

1963 — Race relations

That the Mennonite Brethren Church declare its position on race relations at the General Conference, assembled at Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 3-7, 1963, to this effect:

Whereas, every redeemed individual regardless of race or ethnic origin, is most precious in the sight of God; and, whereas it is the duty and desire of the church to bring the gospel to all people in order to win them for Christ; and, whereas, the church will measure its task and opportunities in the light of our Lord's imminent return to judgment, and will hold itself accountable to its Lord, looking forward to the great day of His appearing when men of all nations and kindreds and tongues shall gather around His throne and praise Him eternally for having washed their sin-stained "robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14); that, therefore be it resolved:

1. That the Mennonite Brethren Church affirm its adherence to and application of the Scriptural principles concerning race relations and church work, to wit: (a) "God will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). (b) His plan of salvation embraces the world. "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2). (c) God's grace in Christ Jesus should be proclaimed to all nations in accordance with the Savior's Great Commission to His church: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to

every creature" (Mark 16:15). "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8). (d) In the execution of Christ's command, viz. "to preach the gospel to every creature" no line of demarcation should be drawn relative to nationality, race, color, "for there is no respect of persons with God" (Rom. 2:11, Eph. 6:9, Col. 3:25, Acts 10:34). (e) The Christian Church is the recipient of Christ's injunction to "teach the nations to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded." Not only did Christ instruct his church to "teach all nations," but also to "baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19, 20). (f) The church's chief function and task is to spread the news of Christ and His salvation to men, women, and children, irrespective of any national or race makeup, so that souls may be won for and retained with Christ, in whom alone they "have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:17).

2. That in all problems which arise in connection with the application and conduct of these above-mentioned principles of Scripture, all members of our church unreservedly obey the Savior's command "that ye love one another" and practice Christian charity, forbearance and understanding with each other, knowing that the same Lord is Head over all, and that His Spirit dwells in all the churches.

3. (a) That all congregations of the Mennonite Brethren Conference regard all persons regardless of race or ethnic origin living within the limits of their respective parishes as individuals whom God would reach with the gospel of His saving grace through the ministry of the local congregation. (b) That congregations operating in changing communities be encouraged to continue operations in those areas rather than relinquish their properties

through sale to other denominations, and that the various district mission boards be encouraged to help these congregations when this becomes necessary, so that the souls in those communities, regardless of race or ethnic origin, may be won and served.

(c) That conference institutions, agencies, and offices make no distinction based on race or color in their entrance requirements or employment policies.

4. That since Christians are constrained to do justice and to love mercy, we acknowledge our responsibility as a church to provide guidance for our members to work in the capacity of Christian citizens for the elimination of discrimination wherever it may exist in community, city, state, nation, and the world. GCY, 1963, pp. 42, 43.

RECORDS, SAFEKEEPING OF CONFERENCE

1951 — Safekeeping of Conference records

That all records of the various committees of our Conference, dating as far back as records are available, be placed in permanent file in a vault of the Conference office building in Hillsboro, Kansas. The files are to be accessible only to the respective committees and to those who shall have permission from such committees. The Board of Trustees shall provide that the records sent in by the various committees be properly filed. GCY, 1951, p. 122.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

1927 — Committee of Reference and Counsel created

That the Conference elect a committee of reference and counsel which considers the

questions addressed to the Conference, and then offers counsel and makes recommendations to the Conference. (Nine brethren were elected as follows: P. E. Nickel, Herman A. Neufeld, J. F. 1-larms, H. H. Flaming, Johann Siemens, P. P. Rempel, Ludwig Seibel, B. J. Friesen, H. S. Voth.) GCY, 1927, p. 14.

1930 — Temporary committee of reference and counsel nominated

That a committee of reference and counsel of nine brethren be nominated which examines the questions handed in, and than assists the Conference in the answering of them by offering counseling recommendations. (Nine brethren were appointed: J. J. Wiebe, Gerh. Wiens, P. E. Nickel, H. S. Voth, W. J. Bestvater, N. N. Hiebert, David Dyck, D. C. Eitzen, B. B. Janz). GCY, 1930, p. 6.

1930 — Election and staggering of term of committee of reference and counsel

(a) That by ballot a committee of reference and counsel of nine brethren be elected to investigate and regulate difficult questions and cases in our Conference. (b) That the brethren receiving most votes be elected for nine, six, and three years respectively. (Result of the election: For nine years, N. N. Hiebert, J. J. Wiebe, H. Adrian; for six years, P. E. Nickel, P. R. Lange, H. S. Voth; for three years W. J. Bestvater, Herman A. Neufeld, Jakob Lepp.) GCY, 1930, pp. 53, 54, and 64.

1933 - Report accepted, and election

(a) The report by the committee of reference and counsel was accepted. (b) The following three brethren were elected for nine years: W. J. Bestvater, B. B. Janz, and A. H. Unruh. GCY, 1933, pp. 65, 66 and 69.

1936 — Work of committee accepted, and election

(a) The report and the work of the committee of reference and counsel were accepted. (b) Five brethren were elected for a term of three years: David Hooge, P. E. Nickel, B. B. Janz, H. D. Wiebe, W. J. Bestvater. GCY, 1936, pp. 67-69 and 72.

1936

Note. The adoption by the Conference of the 1936 constitution changed the membership composition to five elected brethren who together with the three elected officers of the Conference (chairman, assistant chairman, and secretary) constituted the committee of reference and counsel of eight members. Constitution, 1936, p. 15.

1939 — Guiding principles to be worked out by special committee

(a) That the newly elected committee of reference and counsel elect a (special) committee to prepare guiding principles in German and English by which young ministers may be directed (when officiating) at weddings, dedications, communion services, and other sacred performances. (b) That the following brethren be elected by acclamation: A. H. Unruh, P. E. Nickel, B. B. Janz, H. D. Wiebe, W. J. Bestvater, who together with the officers of the Conference (G. B. Huebert, chairman, H. S. Voth, assistant chairman, A. A. Schroeter, secretary) form the committee of reference and counsel. GCY, 1939, pp. 58, 59 and 62.

1943 — Report and election

(a) The committee of reference and counsel made its 1943 report, pp. 72-76. (b) By

ballot the following were elected: B. B. Janz, H. H. Janzen, H. D. Wiebe, A. H. Unruh, P. F. Wall. (The Conference officers elected were: H. W. Lohrenz, chairman, G. B. Huebert, assistant chairman, Orlando Harms, secretary.) GCY, 1943, pp. 72-76 and 79.

1945 — Report and election

(a) Report of committee of reference and counsel recorded on pp. 69 to 74. (b) Election of the following members: B. B. Janz, A. H. Unruh, J. B. Toews, J. W. Vogt, H. H. Flaming. (Officers of the Conference: H. D. Wiebe, chairman, H. S. Voth, assistant chairman, Orlando Harms, secretary). GCY, 1945, pp. 69-74, 102 and 125.

1948 — Report and election

(a) Report of committee of reference and counsel recorded on pp. 101-108. (b) Election of the following members: A. H. Unruh, B. B. Janz, J. B. Toews, H. H. Flaming, J. W. Vogt. (Officers of the Conference: B. J. Braun, chairman, J. B. Toews, assistant chairman, H. R. Wiens, secretary.) GCY, 1948, pp. 101-108 and 155.

1951— Writing Conference history, polity, doctrine, history of missions

That the committee (of reference and counsel) initiate and supervise the writing and publishing of the following documents: (a) An official publication of the history of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (b) A treatise on the polity and practices of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (c) A publication of the Biblical doctrines of the Mennonite Brethren Church. (d) A history of the Missions of the Mennonite Brethren Church. GCY, 1951, p. 122.

1951 — Centennial commemoration

That the committee be charged with the preparation of the centennial commemoration... (See Centennial). GCY, 1951, p. 122.

1951 — A statement of “A frank analysis of our spiritual status.”

(See “Doctrine, Principles, and Interrelationships of [M.B.] Churches. GCY, 1951, pp. 125-144). GCY, 1951, pp. 120-145.

1951 — Report and election

(a) Report of committee of reference and counsel recorded on pp. 120-145. (b) Election of the following members: A. H. Unruh, B. B. Janz, J. B. Toews, P. R. Lange, Lando Hiebert, J. W. Vogt. (Officers of the Conference: B. J. Braun, chairman, H. H. Janzen, assistant chairman, H. H. Wiens, secretary). GCY, 1951, pp. 120-145 and 219.

1954 — Submitted questions, report, election

(With the provisional adoption of the 1954 constitution, the committee was given the official name of Board of Reference and Counsel and one half of the membership was elected for a term of six years, and the other half for three years. At each subsequent Conference only three members are elected for a term of six years. (a) Report of the board of reference and counsel recorded on pp. 18, 23, 61, 97. (b) Election of the following brethren: B. J. Braun, R. M. Baerg, P. R. Lange, J. B. Toews, A. H. Unruh, J. A. Toews. Officers of the Conference: H. H. Janzen, chairman, Dan Friesen, assistant chairman, H. R. Wiens, secretary). GCY, 1954, 6-7, 18-23, 61, 97, 188.

1954 — Regarding (proposed) board of elders

(See also elders, pp. 61, 62) That in view of the reactions of all the district conferences (to Document No.3, “Board of Elders” as presented by the Committee of Reference and Counsel, General Conference Yearbook, 1951, pp. 130-133), the Conference order a revision of said document transferring the duties assigned to the (proposed) board of elders to the Board of Reference and Counsel. GCY, 1954, p. 20.

1954 — Appointment of two members to program committee

That we (the Conference) ask the Board of Reference and Counsel to appoint the two members to the Conference program committee (for the interim). GCY, 1954, p. 139.

1957 — Report and election

(a) Report of the Board of Reference and Counsel recorded on pp. 9-13, 106-118. (b) Election. At the 1957 Conference the following were elected for six years, to 1963: R. M. Baerg, J. H. Quiring, H. R. Wiens; serving with B. J. Braun, J. B. Toews, and A. H. Unruh, whose terms to expire in 1960. (Officers of the Conference: Dan Friesen, chairman, D. J. Pankratz, assistant chairman, Joel Wiebe, secretary.) GCY, 1957, pp. 9-13, 106-118.

1960 — Report and election

(a) Report of the Board of Reference and Counsel recorded on pp. 33-35, 46, 133, 135-136, 153-154. (b) At the 1960 Conference the following were elected for six years, to 1966: D. J. Pankratz, J. A. Toews, B. J. Braun; serving with R. M.

Baerg, J. H. Quiring, and H. H. Wiens, whose terms to expire in 1963. (Officers of the Conference: Dan Friesen, chairman, Frank C. Peters, assistant chairman, H. H. Dick, secretary). GCY, 1960, pp. 33-35, 46, 133, 135-136, 153-154.

1963 — Expanded duties, report, election

(The 1963 constitution which became operative in 1964, not only changed the name of the Committee of Reference and Counsel to the Board of Reference and Counsel, but also expanded the duties of this Board. Constitution, 1963, pp. 31-33, 52-55). (a) Report of the Board of Reference and Counsel recorded on pp. 35-45, 98, 124, GCY, 1963. (b) At the 1963 Conference the following were elected for six years, to 1969, Dan Friesen, H. R. Wiens, H. H. Janzen; serving with D. J. Pankratz, B. J. Braun, J. A. Toews, whose terms to expire in 1966. GCY, 1963, pp. 35-45, 98, 124.

REHABILITATION

(See also General Welfare and Public Relations)

1945 — Rehabilitation of C.P.S. men

That we definitely proceed with the program of rehabilitating the young men that return from the service according to earlier adopted plans. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 — Financial aid to C.P.S. men

That the General Welfare Committee be authorized to give financial assistance in the form of grants to C.P.S. men who left their education after discharge from government service but lack the means to (continue to) do so. The amount of the grant to be equal to the amount remitted in tuition and fees by any of the schools in the Conference

extending educational aid to C.P.S. men. GCY, 1945, p. 40.

1945 — Mental Hospitals

That we favor the establishment by the Mennonite Central Committee of one or more convenient places to provide for the mentally ill of our brethren and sisters. GCY, 1945, p. 41.

1948 — Spiritual Gospel ministry to refugees

That we again authorize the (General Welfare) committee to send out one or two families or brethren for the express purpose of spiritual gospel ministry among the refugees and brethren. GCY, 1948, p. 67.

REPORTS, CONFERENCE

1883 — Publication of Conference minutes and resolutions

That in order to inform the churches of the resolutions and reports, it was decided to publish the 1883 Conference minutes through the "Rundschau." (The "Rundschau" was at that time published in Elkhart, Indiana. Bernhard Pauls was the first M.B. Conference appointed editor, who was followed by J. F. Harms in 1884, who edited the "Mennonitische Rundschau" from his place of residence in Canada, Kansas.) History of the M.B. Church, J. F. Harms, pp. 263-265.) GCY, 1883, p. 13.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING CHURCH POLITY

1936 — Revision and publication of former resolutions

(In regard to revision and publication of the

rules and regulations valid at the present pertaining to our church polity, with proper citation of Scripture, it was decided) That the Brethren P. E. Nickel, Hillsboro, J. J. Wiebe, Corn, and John Siemens compile the (former) Conference resolutions and publish them in the *Zionsbote* for open discussion. GCY, 1936, pp. 67, 68.

1945 — Compilation of Conference rules (resolutions)

That a compilation of the Conference rules (and resolutions) be made and that sufficient copies be printed that not only the churches but as many of the members of our Conference as so desire can obtain copies. That this compilation be made and printed by the Publishing House of our Conference as soon as possible. GCY, 1945, p. 73.

SALARIES

1951 — Salaries to committee members

That Conference committees and boards receive no salary or honorariums for their time spent in traveling to and from, nor while attending committee meetings unless their income is seriously affected. GCY, 1951, p. 122.

SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE SPECIAL DUTY OF

1954 — Secretary to list financial obligations

That we ask the secretary to list in the (Conference) report book all the financial obligations that have been voted at this (1954) Conference for the churches and district conferences to take care of. GCY, 1954, p. 139.

SECRET SOCIETIES

1890 — Secret societies

That it is forbidden for members of Mennonite Brethren Churches to become members of secret societies. GCY, 1890, pp. 106, 107.

1945 — Secret societies

That, in view of the many unchristian practices of the secret lodges, such as horrible oaths, which members must take (to join), and because the name of our blessed Lord and Savior is omitted or rather excluded from them, we believe that the following Scripture references should shed sufficient light upon this question: 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:8-13; Matt. 5:33-37; James 5:15; Luke 5:4-6; John 3: 19-21; Matt. 12:48-50. GCY, 1945, p. 71.

SEMINARY (SEE ALSO “STUDY COMMISSION”)

1948 — Seminary commission

(a) That the Conference elect a commission to consider and study the practical aspect of an (M.B.) seminary. It was further moved that we elect a commission for this purpose in the manner our constitution prescribes for electing other committees. (b) That we elect two members from each district and consider the incoming Conference chairman a member of this commission. (The following were elected: Northern district, H. H. Nickel, A. A. Kroeker; Central district, H. E. Wiens, Dan E. Friesen; Southern district, J. W. Vogt, P. C. Hiebert; Pacific district, H. R. Wiens, Waldo Wiebe). GCY, 1948, p. 76.

1951 — Seminary question

(After the seminary commission elected in 1948 had given a report of its findings, GCY, 1951, pp. 118, 119, the Conference passed the following resolution): That for further investigation, the seminary question be submitted to the “Coordinating Committee” (See Education and GCY, 1951, p. 101) which in turn shall study it together with the Committee of Reference and Counsel and have the results of their findings referred to the district conferences for action. GCY, 1951, p.120.

1893 — Music magazine

(Brother Isaak Born, Russia, offered to edit his “Saenger-Zeitung” with notes for American readers and use, and asked for an advance of \$150.00 in funds). The Conference decided: That the Conference cannot accede to this request, but recommends to singers in America that they subscribe to this periodical. GCY, 1893, p. 155.

1903 — Church hymnal

(With reference to a church hymnal) That the “Zions-Glaubensstimme” be recommended, and that churches send their orders to J. F. Harms (editor of the *Zionsbote*). GCY, 1903, p. 292.

1919 — “Saenger-Bote” and music

(In reply to the petition by the [Canadian M.B.] “Association of Singers” for the Conference to take over the production and publication of the *Saenger-Bote*. a monthly publication on church music, the Conference decided): (a) That the matter be reported to and deliberated on by the churches, and (b) That a decision on this matter be deferred until the next Conference. GCY, 1919, pp. 498-501.

1919

Note. The song book “Evangeliumslieder” had been introduced into Mennonite Brethren churches. It was used very generally by churches all over the Conference, and held its own until singing changed over into the English language. Whenever there is occasion for a service in the German language in Mennonite Brethren churches today (1963), the “Evangeliumslieder” is still used for the song service.

1921 — Saenger-Bote

(Regarding the Saenger-Bote) (a) That the Conference nominate a committee which together with the publication committee of the Conference deliberate over this matter, and, if possible, publish a periodical that will foster the ministry of music in our Conference churches. (b) That this committee assume the business affairs of the endeavor, in the appointment of an editor and associates, and look after the success of the periodical until the next Conference. (The members elected into the committee were: H. D. Wiebe, J. P. Wiebe, Aaron Sawatzky, 11. J. Pankratz, J. J. Franz). GCY, 1921, pp. 48, 49 and 76.

1924 — Report by music committee and resolutions

(The committee elected in 1921 gave an oral report emphasizing the need of [a] a music magazine, [b] diligent practice in hearty singing, and [c] a suitable church hymnal. The Conference decided): (a) That the Conference elect five brethren into a music committee (Komitee fuer Gesangessache) in order that we (M.B. Conference) may obtain a song book (hymnal) suited for our needs. (b) That the following brethren serve in the song book committee: H. D. Wiebe, J. P.

Wiebe, A. G. Sawatzky, H. J. Pankratz, J. J. Franz. (c) That H. J. Pankratz serve as chairman of the committee. GCY, 1924, p. 48.

1927 — Report by music committee and resolution

(The music committee reported that the easiest course for the Conference would be to accept the “Neue Glaubensharfe” for our church hymnal). It was decided: That as Conference we recommend the “Neue Glaubensharfe” to our churches, though the examination of the song book and its adoption be left to the individual churches. (Note. The music committee was not re-elected). GCY, 1927, pp. 66 and 72.

1927

Note. For the next 18 years the matter of church music and a Conference hymnal received no attention on the General Conference level, nor did the Conference provide a special committee for this purpose during these years. In 1945, however, the Board of Reference and Counsel presented a thoroughgoing recommendation to the Conference which was adopted.

1945 — Production of M.B. Conference hymnal

(a) That we proceed energetically with the production of a song book with notes to satisfy the needs of our churches. (b) That the song book is to be composed of old chorals, other old hymns, as well as good new hymns and songs. (c) That the following brethren form a committee for the selection, translation, and arranging of the songs: Ben Horch, Winnipeg, Manitoba; F. C. Thiessen, Abbotsford, B.C.; H. C. Richert, Hillsboro, Kansas; C. Wall, Mountain Lake, Minnesota; and H. D.

Wiebe, Bakersfield, California. (d) That the individual churches notify the committee of the number of books each could use, so the committee can estimate the number of books to be printed. (e) That the various brethren and sisters remit their wishes regarding the songs, but the committee to make the final decision in the selection of them. (f) That the payment of the traveling expenses of the respective brethren to committee meetings be taken care of by the respective district conferences to which the brethren in the committee belong. (g) That the General Conference appoints Brother H. C. Richert as chairman of this committee and requests him to consult with the Brethren Ben Horch and F. C. Thiessen to acquaint himself with the advances which have been made there (in Canada) in this request. (h) That this songbook be produced in both the English and the German languages. GCY, 1945, p. 73.

1948 — Revision of plan for an English hymnal

(Since a complete German hymnal was being published in Canada, the Conference adopted the following revised resolution regarding an English church hymnal). (a) That we reconsider point “h” of the 1945 resolution, and proceed with the publication of an English song book, and (b) that we recognize the German hymnal produced by the Canadian M.B. Conference. GCY, 1948, p. 96.

1948 — Re purchase of hymnals

(a) That the churches in the States purchase German hymnals as needed. (b) And the same holding true in regards to English hymnals — that the Canadian brethren in turn purchase the English hymnals as they find need.... GCY, 1948, p. 97.

1948 — Revised committee membership

(a) That beside a committee there be a group who can with less difficulty and with as little expense as possible meet often. (b) That we authorize Brother H. C. Richert to appoint brethren to assist him in publishing an English hymnal. GCY, 1948, p. 97.

1948 — Hymnals for South American M.B. churches

That we recommend to the Committee of General Welfare and Public Relations to consider the need of the South American churches as to German hymnals and to act accordingly. GCY, 1948, p. 97.

1951 — Publication procedure of English hymnal

(The chairman, Brother H. C. Richert, reported that by authorization of the 1948 resolution the following hymnal committee had been formulated: Dr. P. C. Hiebert, chairman; Dr. L. J. Franz, secretary-treasurer; Brother A. J. Voth, member; Professor H. C. Richert, music editor; and presented the following resolutions which were adopted): (a) That Brother Richert with the committee be authorized to proceed with the publication of the M.B. Hymnal. (b) That the recommendation of a book containing 475 songs supplying the needs for the various church functions be accepted. (c) That the price of the book be kept as low as possible in order to make it widely available. \$1.50 being suggested. (d) That a first edition of 5,000 copies be printed. (e) That advanced orders be received for the book from individuals, congregations and others, to be paid, if possible, in advance to furnish some capital for the preparation of the book. (f) That the Board of Trustees be authorized to advance the necessary funds for this so important Conference

undertaking ... to be done on a loan basis with the prospect that money realized from the sale of the books be used to pay these loans. (g) To leave the selection of the name of the songbook to the discretion of the song book committee. (h) That by acclamation the committee be re-elected and instructed to continue the work on the songbook. GCY, 1951, pp. 96-98.

1954 — M.B. Church Hymnal report

(The hymnal committee reported that the first edition of 7,500 copies was sold out; that a second edition was being printed; that financially the project had left the Conference treasury a balance of \$1,113.39 plus the inventory of the music plates; and that the M.B. Publishing House was now handling its further production and marketing. The Conference decided): That the report (by the Hymnal Committee) be accepted with gratitude, and to extend to them, by a standing vote, a thank-you for the final hymnal they have compiled. GCY, 1954, pp. 93-96.

SOUTH AMERICAN (AREA) CONFERENCE

1948 — Acceptance of South American M.B. Conference

(a) That on the basis of Brother (B. B.) Janz's report, the reorientated church policy and procedure, and the constitution of the churches of South America, we accept the churches of South America as a district conference of the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. (b) That we extend the hand of fellowship to the Brethren Gerhard H. Rosenfeld (Brazil) and Kornelius Voth (Paraguay), who are present at the Conference representing the churches of South America. GCY, 1948, p. 3.

1957 — Greeting to South American churches

That the following letter of greeting be sent to our brethren in South America through Brother Gerhard Balzer: (The Brethren John Pankratz and Isaac Tiessen to prepare the letter)

Gruss an die Gemeinden in Sued-Amerika: Die siebenundvierzigste Generalkonferenz der M.B. Gemeinden von Nord-Amerika in Yarrow, B.C., sendet unserer Bruederschaft in Sued-Amerika herzliche Gruesse mit Eph. 4, 15; ~Lasset uns aber rechtschaffen sein in der Liebe und wachsen in allen Stuecken an dem, der das Haupt ist, Christus.”

Wir danken unserem himmlischen Vater fuer Jesus Christus und das ewige Leben in Ihm. In tiefer Dankbarkeit gedenken wir unserer ganzen Bruederschaft und des groszen Werkes, dass er uns anvertraut. Auf dieser Konferenz ist der Herr uns von neuem gnaedig gewesen und hat uns ermutigt durch die Offenbarung seines Geistes der Liebe und Einmuetigkeit. Die Gegenwart Eures Bruders, Gerhard Balzer, brachte uns die Verbundenheit mit den Gemeinden in Sued-Amerika zu besonderem Bewusstsein.

Moege die Gnade Jesu Christi eure Notdurft in allen Dingen des Glaubens, des Lebens und des Dienstes erfuellen. Apg. 20, 31: Und nun, liebe Brueder, ich befehle euch Gott und dem Wort seiner Gnade, der da maechtig ist, euch zu erbauen und zu geben das Erbe unter allen, die geheiligt werden.” GCY, 1957, pp. 117, 118.

SISTERS (IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES)

1879 — Sisters’ participation

That sisters may take part in church activities as the Holy Spirit leads. However, they should not preach nor take part in discussion in business meetings of the

church. GCY, 1879, p. 4.

SPIRITUAL WELFARE (OF THE CONFERENCE)

1945 — Dangerous influences

That, when individuals, churches, or organizations believe that certain individuals, organizations, or institutions harbor danger to the welfare of the Brotherhood, they have the right to petition for an investigation. When a written petition of this nature is signed by not less than five brethren and presented to the Committee of Reference and Counsel, the case is examined and investigated by this committee. In case of a district conference matter, it is then referred to the committee of reference and counsel of the respective district, if there is one. In case of a General Conference matter the committee decides upon further procedure even to the extent of a public hearing before the Conference as a whole. GCY, 1945, p. 70.

1948 — Counsel in relation to doctrine and practice

That in consideration of the various spiritually disintegrating influences which are beginning to infiltrate our Conference, and in consideration of some positions of individual brethren and the churches in our Conference in relation to points of doctrine and practice, the Committee of Reference and Counsel considers itself responsible in accordance with (Constitution) Part II, Article VII, Section 2, (a), p. 30; and Part III, Article VII, A, paragraph 2, pp. 52-55; to call the following points of belief and practice to the special attention of the Conference for closer observation:

(a) Call and ordination of brethren. The call and ordination of brethren to the teaching ministry of the church should be carried

through in such a fashion and based on Biblical principles that the church may preserve the deep consciousness that the Holy Spirit has called and appointed the minister into the position of service.

~Ephesians
4:11).

Such appointment must be carried out in complete keeping with the teaching of the pastoral epistles of Paul. Where individual brethren have dedicated themselves as firstfruits to the ministry of the saints (1 Cor. 16:15), their service is not permitted to lead to any divisions within the church. (Rom. 16:17).

It is further necessary to consider that we do not call teachers of the Word from the churches outside of our Conference fellowship because they frequently hold teachings which we as a Mennonite Brethren Conference cannot endorse. It is further to be re-emphasized that all ordinations of ministers be carried out within keeping of the Conference policies as outlined in the resolution of the General (M.B.) Conference of 1933, which reads as follows: "The local church that wishes to ordain a brother should make its wish known to the representatives of the neighboring churches for their consideration and endorsement. Having received such endorsement the church will call some experienced brethren who have the confidence of our Conference to officiate at the ordination."

According to a resolution passed by the General Conference in 1943, GCY, p. 76, our Conference does not recognize ordinations of other denominations in our churches with the exception of those of the K.M.B. Church. It is, therefore, necessary that all brethren who, after an acceptance as workers in our Conference, even though they may have been ordained by other conferences, be ordained according to rules and regulations of our own denomination.

(b) Appointed leadership. The appointed

leadership in our churches should consist of brethren who have received their training in our own Conference and have proven themselves for a period of several years as true and faithful to the doctrine and policies of the Mennonite Brethren Church. In cases where brethren who do not meet the above qualifications are considered for appointment in our churches, the Committee recommends that such brethren be examined thoroughly as to their testimony of life, their doctrinal beliefs, and policies of church administration. Where a district conference has made no provision for an authorized body to take the responsibility for such examination it is advised that the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the respective district conference in which the church considering such appointment is located be charged with the responsibility of the examination. Only with the endorsement of the examining committee should the local church consider the appointment of such a brother.

(c) Ministers a gift of God. The church must be kept under the deep conviction that their ministers were given to them by God. Only then will the relationship of the members of the church to their teachers find its scriptural expression as stated in Hebrews 13:7 and 1 Thess. 5:12, 13.

When God gives a teacher unto a church He holds him in His hand (Rev. 1:16). Because of this relationship a church is not permitted to deal with a minister as with a hireling. Because of the responsibility of the minister before God and the church no servant of the Word and pastor of a church should be dismissed in response to such demand on the part of individual members of a church. Only after a church as a body has earnestly sought the will of God in relation to their leader and definite Scriptural reasons for the dismissal of the brother have become the conviction of the church should such steps be taken through the expression of a more or

less united vote of the church. Where a church finds it difficult to come to a clear answer in the consideration of the relationship of this church towards their minister, teacher, and pastor, it is advised that such a church call in experienced spiritual brethren of the neighboring churches for the purpose of counsel and guidance.

(d) Tendencies of the age. Because of tendencies in our days which in the name of brotherhood frequently make light of the scriptural authority of the minister, the Committee of Reference and Counsel warns against this spirit of the age which is in direct opposition to the Word of God. In order to remain true to the principle of Scripture in doctrine, walk, and practice it is necessary that we as a church maintain a spiritual unity and obligate ourselves to the observance of the advice and guidance of the Conference. Where a spirit of individualism enters into a church and finds room for expression, it endangers to destroy all orders of the scriptural relationship of interdependence and unity. We cannot evaluate the spiritual structure of a church from the standpoint of the social or political democracy. Political concepts of methods and practice when applied to the work of the church will invariably result in destructive results.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. GCY, 1948, pp. 106, 107, 108.

STUDY COMMISSION

1957 — Study commission and assignment

That, inasmuch as the Mennonite Brethren Church holds to the cherished position that the General Conference is the highest organizational unit of the Brotherhood, and that the principle of consolidation and

unification be applied in the structural and functional organization of the Brotherhood, and since we recognize that six areas of General Conference concerns, in particular, can be most adequately met on the General Conference level, in which areas unification should be retained, these areas being in the Board of Reference and Counsel, Board of Foreign Missions, Board of Trustees, Relief and Welfare, Publication, and Higher Theological Education, i.e., on the seminary level, the following (be provided):

(a) Study commission. That a commission of brethren be appointed by the Board of Reference and Counsel, subject to the approval of the Conference, to investigate and study the field of unification of our brotherhood, in specific areas, as delegated by the Board of Reference and Counsel.

(b) Assignment of study commission. That this commission be charged with the responsibility of reporting to the Board of Reference and Counsel the findings of their studies and suggest definite lines of procedure which may furnish the basis for the implementation of retaining and strengthening unification, and that the recommendations in turn be made to the district conferences by the Board of Reference and Counsel.

(c) Temporary limitation of educational expansion. That our district conferences, both in the United States and in Canada, do not continue programs of expansion in the area of higher education, in order not to create a situation which, because of expanded enterprises might make retraction impossible, and thus hinder unification. GCY, 1957, pp. 12, 13.

1957 — Study commission personnel

(a) That the following 10 brethren be appointed to serve on the Study Commission on unification: Canada: H. J. Dick, Herman Lenzmann, Isaac Tieszen, P. H. Toews, and

Walter Wiebe. U.S.A.: E. J. Peters, Waldo Hiebert, G. H. Jantzen, C. N. Hiebert and G. S. Warkentin. (b) That the heads of those Conference enterprises, which are to be investigated for the purpose of unification, be co-opted into the study commission. (c) That Brother H. M. Baerg be appointed as chairman of the study commission on unification. He shall, however, not have voting power. (d) That if any members of the above named commission find it impossible to serve, replacements be appointed by the Board of Reference and Counsel. GCY, 1957, pp. 117, 118.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (CHURCH SCHOOLS)

1874 to 1888

Note. Between the years of their earliest settlement in 1874 and 1888, the Sunday school had become a regular institution of the M.B. churches in America. Sunday school conventions were held to help promote this phase of the church's ministry. A complete program, listing topics and speakers, of the Sunday school convention held on May 23, 1898, was published in three consecutive issues of the *Zionsbote* of 1898, Numbers 17, 19, 20. In the August 5 to September 21, 1898, *Zionsbote*, Numbers 31 to 38, editor J. F. Harms had prepared and published 20 lessons on Bible study for youth, adapted for Sunday school use. P. F. Duerksen, an early promoter of the Sunday school, published an article on Sunday school methods and hints for Sunday school teachers in *Zionsbote* Number 25, of 1899. But no regular Mennonite Brethren periodical on the Sunday school and the Sunday school lessons appeared until 1900, when "Der Sonntagsschul-Bote," a monthly magazine, was published as a private enterprise by P. F. Duerksen and made available at a small price to all churches who

subscribed to it in various quantities. The Sonntagsschul-Bote contained the Sunday school lessons for each Sunday of the month: listing the subject of the lesson (following the International" outline), giving the text from the Bible, an introduction, the golden text verse, an exposition on the lesson, questions adapted to children, and practical suggestions for the Christian life. In addition, the Sonntagsschul-Bote also carried articles and reports on Mennonite Brethren missions, on the church, on the Sunday school, etc. *Zionsbote*, 1898, Nu. 17, 19, 20; Nu. 31-38; 1899, Nu. 25; Sonntagsschul-Bote, 1900-1903.

1888 — Sunday school conventions

That the general sentiment (of the delegates) is in favor of strengthening the Sunday school, and to arrange for a Sunday school convention in the interests of the Sunday schools. The matter of the date and the program are left to the publication committee. GCY, 1888, p. 71.

1889 — The Sunday school

(In reply to the question as to whether the Conference would not be ready to proceed in a uniform manner in the matter of the Sunday school, it was decided): That this be referred to the Kansas Sunday School Convention, and that it publish its views on the matter in the *Zionsbote*. GCY, 1889, p. 89.

1900 — Sunday school lessons by Duerksen

(Brother P. F. Duerksen reported by letter that under the Lord's blessings the editing of the "Sonntagsschul-Bote," containing the Sunday school lessons, had proved a success

during the past year, and that if the Conference would assume this endeavor, it would serve to encourage him. The Conference delegation favored the Sunday school publication, but was not ready to take it on as a Conference project). GCY, 1900, pp. 230, 231.

1902 — ‘Sonntagsschul-Bote’ favored

(P. F. Duerksen was at this time still successfully publishing the “Sonntagsschul-Bote” and the ‘Kinderblatt’ as a private undertaking). The Conference expressed its approval and satisfaction over this ministry, and urged that all churches and stations make use of the Sunday school materials. GCY, 1902, pp. 267, 268.

1903 – Sunday School lessons acceptable

(Duerksen reported that the Sunday school lessons published by him were being generally accepted and the publication of them paid for itself, but that the “Sonntagsschul-Bote” [magazine] in its smaller format did not carry itself financially. If every family would subscribe for the “Bote,” it would pay). GCY, 1903, p. 292.

1904 — Subscriptions to Sunday school lessons

That subscriptions (money) for the Sunday school lessons be sent to J. F. Harms (editor of *Zionsbote*, Medford, Oklahoma. GCY, 1904, p. 317.

1905 — New editors of Sunday school lessons

(After an expression of general satisfaction in regard to the Sunday school lessons, the Conference decided): (a) That the Brethren J. F. Duerksen and D. D. Bartel would also

edit them in the future. (b) That subscription moneys for the Sunday school lessons be sent to J. F. Harms (editor of the *Zionsbote*) Medford, Oklahoma. GCY. 1905, pp. 338, 339.

1906 — Change in editors of Sunday school lessons

(The Conference expressed general satisfaction in regard to the Sunday school lessons. D. D. Bartel requested to be released from writing his part of the lessons). (a) That J. F. Duerksen and H. W. Lohrenz be requested to write the Sunday school lessons, and that they be given the same compensation as heretofore. (b) That the Conference, by a standing vote of the delegates, express its appreciation to the Brethren J. F. Duerksen and D. D. Bartel for their services. GCY, 1906, p. 357.

1907 — Change in editor of Sunday school lessons

(Since Brother d. F. Duerksen no longer finds it possible to edit his half of the Sunday school lessons): That Brother N. N. Hiebert take the place of Brother Duerksen, and together with Brother H. W. Lohrenz edit the Sunday school lessons. GCY, 1907, p. 377.

1908 — N. N. Hiebert editor of Sunday school lessons

(Since Brother H. W. Lohrenz requested to be released from writing his part of the Sunday school lessons), That Brother N. N. Hiebert be engaged as editor of the Sunday school lessons with the privilege of choosing assistants. GCY, 1908, p. 395.

1909 — Editor of Sunday school lessons

That Brother N. N. Hiebert be engaged for three years as editor of the Sunday school

lessons. GCY, 1909, p. 421.

1912 – Editor of Sunday school lessons re-elected

(After the Conference gave expression that the Sunday school lessons in their present form give general satisfaction, it was decided): (a) That by a standing vote the Conference thank Brother N. N. Hiebert for his services up to the present as editor of the Sunday school lessons, and (b) re-elect him again for this work. (c) That Brother Hiebert be free to select an assistant. GCY, 1912, p. 442.

1915 — N. N. Hiebert re-elected

(a) Brother N. N. Hiebert was re-elected as editor of the Sunday school lessons. (b) The Conference gave him a standing vote of thanks. GCY, 1915, pp. 467, 468.

1919 — J. F. Duerksen succeeds N. N. Hiebert

(Brother N. N. Hiebert asked to be released as editor of the Sunday school lessons). (a) That Brother Hiebert be given a standing vote of thanks for his ministry on the Sunday school lessons, and since he is overloaded with work, that his resignation be accepted. (b) That Brother J. F. Duerksen be engaged as editor of the lesson leaflets. (c) That the editor of the Sunday school leaflets be paid a compensation of \$125 per year. GCY, 1919, p. 498.

1921 — J. F. Duerksen re-elected

(a) That we express our thanks to the editor, J. F. Duerksen, for his services. (b) That we engage him as editor (of the Sunday school lessons) for another three years. GCY, 1921, p. 51.

1924 — Sunday school committee created

(Note. The International outline and material had been followed since 1900 in the editing of the Mennonite Brethren Sunday school lessons. The advisability of changing to a different, more comprehensively Biblical, content material was discussed at the 1924 Conference, with the suggestion that the Mennonite Brethren Conference create its own Sunday school material. The Conference decided): (a) That a Sunday school committee be elected for three years: (1) That watches over the selection of the International Sunday school lessons, (2) that publishes the lesson program at least a year in advance, (3) that supplies its own lesson material where the International lessons are inadequate. (b) That a nominating committee be provided which nominates the candidates for the Sunday school committee and reports back (to the Conference) at the next session. (c) That the nominating committee recommend the size of the Sunday school committee. (d) That the following serve in the nominating committee: H. W. Lohrenz, B. J. Friesen, H. H. Flaming, Gerh. Wiens, D. C. Eitzen, H. A. Neufeld, J. F. Duerksen. GCY, 1924, pp. 47, 48.

1924 – Sunday school committee size, and membership

(a) That the Sunday school committee consist of nine members. (b) That the following serve in the Sunday school Committee: Isaac Wall and B. J. Friesen, Pacific district; H. A. Neufeld and H. E. Nickel, northern district; N. N. Hiebert and John Siemens, middle district; H. W. Lohrenz and H. H. Flaming, southern district. GCY, 1924, pp. 47, 48.

1927 — N. N. Hiebert succeeds J. F. Duerksen

(Since Brother 3. F. Duerksen requested to be released, it was decided): (a) That Brother N. N. Hiebert be elected as editor (of the Sunday school lessons). (b) That Brother 3. F. Duerksen be thanked for his editorial services by a standing vote. GCY, 1927, p. 41.

1927

Note. No report appears in the 1927 Conference yearbook by the Sunday school Committee, nor do the records show that such a committee was again elected. Thus the matter of the Sunday school lessons remained responsibility of the editor and the Publication Committee. GCY, 1927, pp. 41 and 72, 73.

1930 — English and German text

(a) That the Conference thanks Brother N. N. Hiebert for his work with the Sunday school leaflets, and engages him again as editor of the Sunday school lessons for the next three years. (b) That henceforth the text in the Sunday school leaflets be printed only in English and German, and no longer in double (two different translations) German for Canada as heretofore (subject to the wishes of the Canadian M.B. Conference meeting in the near future). GCY, 1930, pp. 45, 46.

1933 — N. N. Hiebert re-elected editor

Brother N. N. Hiebert was by acclamation re-elected for another term of three years. GCY, 1933, p. 50.

1936

Note. The 1936 constitution placed the matter of the Sunday school material under

“publication” and a five-member publication committee. It further provided that the Conference elect and employ the editor of the Sunday school quarterly, whose duty it was to select the Sunday school lessons and to supply them with explanatory and devotional interpretations and to submit them for publication. This procedure had been followed in the past. But the Conference Recreated a Sunday School Committee, yet of only three members. The Sunday School Committee of 1924-1927 had nine members.

1936 – Sunday School Committee recreated

(a) That a committee be elected to promote the Sunday school matter in our Conference, and (b) which at the same time, together with the manager of the publishing house, plans to achieve a uniform procedure in the ordering of Sunday school lessons for the younger classes, and of Sunday school material as a whole. (c) That the committee recommend the best and most suitable (material) available on the market, in as far as this cannot be furnished by our own publishing house; and the churches of the Conference should then abide by the recommendation of the committee in the ordering of this (Sunday school) literature. GCY, 1936, pp. 39 and 65.

1936 — Sunday School Committee and editor elected

(a) The following were elected into the Sunday School Committee: A. H. Unruh, H. F. Toews and A. A. Kroeker. (b) Brother A. H. Unruh was elected editor of the Sunday school lessons. GCY, 1936, p. 65.

1939 — English Sunday school quarterly

(a) That for the younger classes a 64-page

Sunday school quarterly in the English language be published, containing only one introduction, one text, based on the International lessons, but having three expositions for pupils of the primary, intermediate and senior departments (respectively). (b) These expositions are to be written by three different persons in order to give them wider scope. We recognize this as an urgent need in order to achieve more uniformity in our Sunday school work. GCY, 1939, p. 20.

1939 — Permanent Sunday School Committee

(a) That the chairman of the Sunday school committees of the district conferences constitute the central Sunday school committee. (b) That this committee together with the Publication Committee regulate matters pertaining to the Sunday schools. GCY, 1939, pp. 20, 21.

1939 — Question regarding election of the three editors

That the publication committee consider the advisability of having the Conference elect the three editors of the English Sunday school quarterly, and report back to the Conference. GCY, 1939, p. 22.

1943

(It was reported at the 1943 Conference, by the chairman of the home missions committee, Brother A. A. Schroeter, that the Sunday school committee elected in 1939 had not met during the interim. The question of the inadequacy of the International lesson material for Mennonite Brethren Sunday school use was discussed at some length, and gave rise to the following resolutions):

1943 — Sunday School Committee,

graded material, 10 cent fee

(a) That a Sunday School Committee be elected as follows: One member to be elected by the Conference at large, who is to be the executive member of the committee, and that one member each be named by the five district conference delegations who together with one member of the publication committee shall comprise the General Conference Sunday School Committee - The committee is hereby instructed to make a survey of conditions and possibilities in the field of Sunday school lesson material as follows: (1) A graded lesson system for our children's department. (2) Teachers' lesson helps for various lessons. (3) An elementary teacher training course for use by the churches.

(b) That our churches be asked to contribute annually 10 cents per average attendent for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the committee and towards the development of the above program. This fund to be at the disposal of this committee.

(c) That since the northern districts are spending much effort and money in the development and preparation of their own lesson material for children, we exploit their experiences and knowledge in this field to the fullest. But (that) we should relieve them also from financial support of the project to the extent, that they themselves are already spending.... That the northern districts may spend half of it for their own promotion until we join completely in a united program.

(d) That the following serve in the Sunday School Committee: A. A. Schroeter, executive member; from the Northern District, A. A. Kroeker; Pacific District, J. P. Rogalsky; Central District, B. 3. Braun; Southern District, J. H. Fadenrecht. GCY, 1943, pp. 56, 57.

1943

Note. During the 1939-1943 Conference interim the publication committee had engaged the following department editors for writing the English Sunday school quarterly: B. 3. Braun, adult department; P. N. Hiebert, young people; Mrs. Sam 3. Pankratz, children.

1943 — All Sunday school editors re-elected by Conference

(That the following editors be re-elected): Brother A. H. Unruh, as editor of the Lektionshefte for the next Conference term. That Brother B. 3. Braun, Brother P. N. Hiebert and Sister Sam 3. Pankratz serve on the editorial staff of the Graded Sunday School Lessons for another Conference term. GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1943 — Price of Sunday school lessons raised

That the price of the Lektionshefte and the Graded Sunday School Lessons be raised somewhat in order that the Sunday school editors and writers can be given better compensation. GCY, 1943, p. 55.

1945 — Sunday school financing (10 cents levy)

(a) That we require the churches of the districts in the States to pay up any delinquent contribution for the years 1943, 1944, 1945. (b) That we do not require the Northern and Ontario district churches to make up the said delinquent contributions for the years of 1943 and 1944, inasmuch as they have spent as much and more in the pioneering which they have done in the development of their own materials. But that for the year of 1945 and henceforth annually, they be asked to make a 10 cents per Sunday school member levy upon their churches the same as those of the U.S. are

asked to do, with the original understanding that they may continue to retain one-half of it toward independent work, such as they are now doing. (c) That each representative on the committee be held responsible that these levies will be forthcoming from the churches of the district which he represents, and sent to the treasurer, Brother P. H. Berg, Hillsboro, Kansas. The method of procedure, however, is to be left entirely to the initiative of the individual as to how to secure the willing cooperation of all the Sunday schools in his district. GCY, 1945, pp. 58, 59.

1945 — Our task in furnishing Sunday school materials

(a) (Because of the inadequacy of the International lessons) That we encourage all of our churches to abandon the use of the International Sunday school lessons in the children's classes in favor of an All-Bible Graded Series of lessons. (b) That we accept in principle the compendium of Scripture Press. (c) That all churches which have not already done so, immediately introduce the Scripture Press pupil's quarterlies, preferably beginning with the lowest classes in order that the transition may be gradual. GCY, 1945, pp. 59, 60.

1945 — Sunday school teacher training

(a) That the Conference adopt a resolution to strive toward the goal that eventually we shall have a trained teacher for every class. (b) That we begin this campaign by making our churches deeply conscious of the need of trained teachers through a persistent emphasis upon it by the ministers in their respective churches, and through periodicals written by competent men in our church papers. (c) That we initiate, immediately, wherever possible, a teachers' training program particularly for those who do now

or wish to teach in the younger classes, and that we make it an eventual minimum requirement of all teachers for the children's departments that they must successfully complete one of the following courses before they would be eligible to teach: (1) Benson's Teachers' Training Course, Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.; or (2) Chas. A. Oliver's - Preparation for Teachers," The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, Pa. GCY, 1945, p. 60.

1945 — Traveling Sunday school secretary

That we consider the employment of a traveling Sunday school secretary, who would be the educational director of the General Conference to visit all the churches or groups of churches to meet with Christian workers in the interest of Christian education for the purpose of unification and direction of the church-school program. GCY, 1945, p. 60.

1945 — Teachers' helps

(Inasmuch as many of our teachers are untrained, and, therefore, unqualified to discriminate and evaluate properly...) (a) That we ... authorize Brother A. H. Unruh to write the Teachers' Helps for the junior and the intermediate departments... (b) That Brother B. J. Braun be (has been) assigned the task to write the Teachers' Helps for the primary department. (Both Brethren... use the Scripture Press compendium as a basis). (c) That the material written by Brother Unruh be translated into the American language and that of Brother Braun be translated into the German language in order that all the Teachers' Helps may become available in both languages... to be economical... and offer to us a uniform material for all the churches. (It was reported that eventually the committee

hoped to be able to write our own teachers' helps for the senior and adult departments as well). (d) That Brother J. H. Fadenrecht of Tabor College . . . be asked to prepare a list of books on religious education which will be recommended to all the Sunday schools for a reference library for their teachers. GCY, 1945. pp. 60, 61.

1945 — Election of committee and Sunday school editors

(a) Sunday School Committee, A. A. Kroeker, Northern District; A. J. Dick, Ontario; C. E. Fast, Southern; P. N. Hiebert, Pacific; Roland Toews, Central; and A. A. Schroeter, member at large and chairman of the committee. (b) H. P. Toews, editor of the "Lektionsheft"; B. J. Braun, P. N. Hiebert and Sister S. G. Pankratz to write the Sunday School Lessons, graded series. GCY, 1945, pp. 61 and 65.

1948 Sunday school resolutions. (a) That the publication committee and the Sunday school committee work out the matter of remuneration of the editors. (b) To refer the questions of use of the International or the National Sunday school lessons back to the Sunday School Committee for further study and decision. (c) That a standing vote of thanks... be accorded to the Sunday school committee for their labors. (d) That we go on record as not favoring the International Sunday school lessons. (e) That the present Sunday School Committee... be re-elected by acclamation. (A. A. Schroeter, P. M. Berg, A. A. Kroeker, A. J. Dick, P. N. Hiebert, C. E. Fast, Roland Toews). GCY, 1948, pp. 92 and 156.

1951 — The Sunday School Committee

That the election and organizational set-up of the committee be continued according to

the constitution, and that it meet at least once during the Conference term to pool its information, strengthen the effort of a Conference-wide unified program and strengthen the spiritual services to the Conference. GCY, 1951, p. 75.

1951 — Name of the committee, change

(a) That the name of the Sunday School Committee be changed to the 'Church School Committee.' (b) That this name also be suggested for use in the district committees and local churches as seems expedient to them in the total program of the work. GCY, 1951, p. 75.

1951 — Sunday school materials

(a) That for the present the publications be continued. (b) That the Sunday school teachers and expositors of our Sunday school lessons ... continue the emphasis on the non-resistance principle in the interpretation of the lessons when the war idea occurs in the Old Testament lessons, and have at least two lessons per year with special emphasis on non-resistance. (c) That we continue with the National Sunday School lessons for another three years, but that the Sunday School Committee use its influence with the National committee, that more lessons be selected from the Epistles, in order to emphasize the teaching of the Bible relative to the church of Jesus Christ. (d) That the secretary (of the Conference) be instructed to include the "Outline of Study Course," proposed by the General Conference Sunday School Committee, in the Conference report. (See pp. 76-78). GCY, 1951, pp. 75 and 76.

1951 — Sunday school teacher training material

That the Church School Committee be

authorized to publish the proposed series of Elementary Study Courses as outlined: Book I, Teacher Training Study Courses; Book II, Bible Study Courses; Book III, Bible-Related Study Courses. That further materials be provided as the program develops and the needs and circumstances allow such work. GCY, 1951, p. 75.

1951 — Finances

(a) That all churches of the three districts in the States be encouraged to continue their annual remittance of 10 cents per pupil for the work of the Church School Committee as in the past. (b) That the Canadian District Churches be relieved of their annual fee in view of the difference in the work of the church school program as outlined above, until such time, when conditions become more favorable for closer coordination both in program and finances. At present all expenses of the program as far as the Canadian Conference is concerned, is being paid by the treasury of the Canadian Conference. GCY, 1951, p. 75.

1951 — Election of Sunday school committee

That the following be elected to serve in the Sunday School Committee for the next Conference term: Walter L. Penner, C. E. Fast, A. A. Kroeker, Art Flaming, Ruben Baerg and Isaac Redekop. GCY, 1951, p. 78.

1954 — Plan of the Sunday school work

(a) That the work be continued along the general lines as followed in the past interim. (b) That the need for teacher training of workers in Sunday school and its related agencies be emphasized. (c) That the graded lessons for children's classes be continued.

(d) That the committee be urged to keep an open eye for the best materials for use in teaching the Bible in our churches and make such suggestions to churches and the Conference as will improve the work. (e) That the U.S. area for the present use: (1) Scripture Press All-Graded Bible lessons for children's classes. (2) Use Gospel Light Press Closely-Graded lessons for midweek classes. GCY, 1954, p. 127.

1954 — NSSA affiliation

(a) That affiliation with the National Sunday School Association be continued. (b) That their lesson outlines for our adult quarterly be used. (c) That an annual contribution to that association by our areas be continued. GCY, 1954, p. 127.

1954 — Aim for united program

(a) That the two area committees work in close fellowship and strive toward a united program as a Conference board. (b) That the Church School (S.S.) committee have at least one joint meeting during the next Conference interim. GCY, 1954, p. 128.

1954 — 15 cent levy

That each local church Sunday school of the U.S. area make an annual contribution to the area committee on the basis of 15 cents per member of average attendance. GCY, 1954, p. 128.

1954 — Area Sunday school organization

(a) That the U.S. area committee seek to organize an area organization with each district represented, and work closely with the respective district committees — especially where the district committee, as such, may not be represented on the area church school committee; and the U.S. area

committee take careful note of the overall organization of Sunday school work in Canada. (b) That the Canadian area committee and the organization of the area be encouraged to continue its organized program. GCY, 1954, p. 128.

1954 — Election of Sunday School Committee

(a) That in order to allow the Sunday School Committee to develop into an operative board, and in view of a request from the Canadian Conference that their two members who have served during the past term be confirmed for the next Conference term, we now elect five members from the U.S. area, for a term of only three years. (b) That the following be elected to serve for three years in the Church School Committee: Walter L. Penner, C. E. Fast, Arthur Flaming, H. M. Baerg, Marvin Jost, and the appointed Canadian Brethren... Isaac Redekop and A. A. Kroeker. GCY, 1954, p. 128.

1957 — Church Schools (Including S.S.)

That in the matter referred to this Board (of Reference and Counsel) by the Conference in the matters of the Committee of Church Schools as discussed during yesterday afternoon's session... that, "In view of the constitutional provision... that the Committee on Church Schools submit its material in the form of a report to be included in the Conference report (yearbook)." GCY, 1957, p. 117.

The following was accepted as findings by the Church School Committee: (a) That we seek where possible to work for greater unification in the Sunday school work of our northern and southern areas. (b) That we continue to use the National Sunday school outlines and exert our influence for continued improvement in the outlines. (c)

That we seek to sponsor a General Conference Sunday school convention during the interim. (d) That each church send its Sunday school superintendent to this convention. (e) That we request the Committee of Reference and Counsel to appoint a commission to make a thorough study of Sunday school materials on the children's level, and that this commission jointly with the Sunday School Committee report at the next General Conference. (f) That during the coming interim, we accept the policies for the Sunday School Committee as provided for in the 1957 General Conference constitution. (g) That the elected committee meet at least once during the interim. GCY, 1957, p. 48.

1957 -- Election

Arthur Flaming was elected. GCY, 1957, pp. 48 and 139. (Only the member at large is elected by the Conference. The chairman of the committees on church schools of the three U.S. area districts and three brethren from Canada are the other members of the Church Schools Committee). GCY, 1957, p. 139.

1960 -- Literature, midweek Bible classes, Conference imprint, meetings

(a) That the Conference by resolution authorize the committee to produce and publish materials for midweek Bible classes to supplement our present Sunday school materials. (b) That the Conference approve the introduction of the M.B. Graded Sunday School series under our own imprint. (c) That the committee (on church schools) meet at least once during the Conference interim, or according to prevailing needs. GCY, 1960, p. 135.

1960 -- Election

H. R. Baerg was elected member at large (to the church schools committee). GCY, 1960, p. 135. (Other members serving at the time: I. W. Redekopp, J. A. Froese, Chester Fast, B. B. Fast, H. H. Dick, A. P. Regier).

1963 -- Printing deficit of Sunday School Committee

That the debt of the General Conference Sunday School Committee be paid by the Board of Trustees treasury and the funds receivable from the sale of religious education material on hand flow into the General Conference treasury. GCY, 1963, p. 124.

1963 -- Election

Elected to serve as member at large in the Sunday School Committee was Brother Chester Fast. (Other members of the committee: Henry R. Baerg, John Block, Boy Fast, Welter Janzen, Dave Redekop, Henry H. Voth). GCY, 1963, pp. 124 and 141.

SURETY (GUARANTEE)

1887 -- Offering surety

That since several brethren have come into difficult situations because of giving surety to someone, it was strongly advised that great care be exercised in this respect, and that no one ask elders to obligate themselves. GCY, 1887, p. 55.

TABOR COLLEGE (SEE EDUCATION)

1908 -- Tabor College School Association

By a show of hands the Conference delegation voted to wish the Brethren of the Tabor College School Association the Lord's blessings in their undertaking, and assured them the confidence of the churches. GCY, 1908, p. 396.

TEACHINGS, FALSE (DOCTRINES)

1921 -- Holiness and divine healing doctrines

The Conference quotes Matt. 24:24, and Malachi 2:7, in answer to the above and warns the church in regard to the inroads of these false teachings. The lips of the priest should proclaim sound doctrine. GCY, 1921, p. 54.

TREASURY, CONFERENCE

1948 -- General M.B. Conference treasury

(a) That a treasury for conference expenses be established and that the following officers and committees be paid out of this treasury: The chairman and secretary of the Conference; the Committee of Reference and Counsel; the Home Missions Committee; the Constitution Committee; the Commission for a Conference Seminary; the annual meetings of two key persons of Tabor College, Pacific Bible Institute, and the M.B. Bible College. (b) That the amount to be budgeted for this treasury be \$5,000 and that this amount be raised by one annual contribution from each church, either by transferring from a treasury or a collection. (c) That this treasury be administered by the Board of Trustees. (d) That the Conference may add such committees to the list as may be elected or appointed for regular or special tasks. GCY, 1948, p. 100.

1951 -- Conference treasury added to constitution

That a General M.B. Conference treasury be created in line with resolution adopted by the Conference in 1948, p. 100, and that this provision be incorporated in the constitution of the General Conference. GCY, 1951, pp. 93. 94, 95. 1954 -- Levy for Conference treasury That a levy of \$1.00 per (church) member per Conference term (interim) be considered ...and that this levy be held as a charge against the districts, who should remit the monies due from them for the above purpose to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees within one year after the close of this Conference. GCY, 1954, p. 33.

1957 — Levy renewed

That a levy of \$1.00 per church member per Conference term again be approved... for the purpose of defraying business operations implementing Conference decisions of various nature. This levy... to constitute a charge against the district conferences, who in turn shall be held responsible for transmitting money due from them to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees within one year after the close of this Conference (session). GCY, 1957, p. 20.

1957 — Board of Trustees to remind districts

That the Board of Trustees be responsible for reminding the district conferences from time to time as may become necessary of the amount of the levy due from them. GCY, 1957, p. 20.

1957 — Districts to pay dues in arrear

That those districts which have not sent in the full levy of \$1.00 per (church) member

for the previous Conference term be asked to do so. GCY, 1957, p. 20.

1960 — \$1.00 levy renewed

That a levy of one dollar per church member per Conference interim be made... that it be charged against the district conference... transmitted to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees within one year after the close of this Conference. GCY, 1960, p. 43.

1963 — Levy of \$1.00 renewed

That again a levy of one dollar (\$1.00) per church member per Conference term be made for the purpose of defraying expenses for business operations and implementing Conference decisions of varied nature. This levy is to constitute a charge against the district and provincial conferences, who in turn shall be held responsible for transmitting money due from them to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees within one year after the close of this Conference. GCY, 1963, p. 50.

WEAPONS (FIREARMS)

1879 — Weapons forbidden

That the Conference does not permit (its members) to have weapons in the house. GCY, 1879, p. 5.

1890 — Carrying of arms

That regarding the possession of firearms, going on the hunt, etc., the Conference recommends “to put the sword into the shield” and leave it there. GCY, 1890, p. 106.

1893 — Carrying of arms

That no firearms are to be permitted in our families. GCY, 1893, p. 156.

WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS (AND VICES)

1887 — Circus, theatre

That our members stay away from circuses, theatres, and such other places. GCY, 1887, p. 55.

1899 — Saloon, circus, tobacco

(The Conference) decided unanimously that church members are not allowed to visit the saloon, attend circus, or sell tobacco. GCY, 1899, p. 217.

1905 — Worldly celebrations

That the Conference refers to its resolutions of 1885 and 1889, which show that churches are not to participate in the national (worldly) celebrations, such as the Fourth of July celebrations, but to offer the youth something better, like mission or children’s festivities, or the like. GCY, 1905, pp. 340, 341.

YOUTH WORK

1888 — Tract distribution

The Conference advises that young men’s and young women’s societies, as well as Sunday schools, should engage in the distribution of good tracts. GCY, 1888, p. 72.

1888 to 1933

Note. Aside from Bible schools during the early period, the principal institutions within the churches of the M .B. Conference in which youth participated and received valuable nurture and training, were the Jugendverein (Christian Endeavor), the

Sunday school, church choirs, and children's festivals and programs.

1933 — Regarding organization of a (Jugendbund) youth society

That upon the recommendation of the Southern District Conference, to nominate a committee that looks into the possibility of organizing a youth society, and at the close of the Conference reports its findings or possible recommendations. The following were elected by acclamation into a committee for a youth society: P. R. Lange, H. E. Wiens, W. J. Bestvater, P. C. Hiebert, H. S. Voth, H. D. Wiebe, P. H. Berg and J. H. Richert.

1933 — Report by committee on youth society

(W. J. Bestvater, secretary of the committee on youth society, presented the following recommendation to the Conference): That after deliberating extensively over the necessity of proceeding in a uniform method in the organized work (or ministry) of spiritual edification and Bible study on Sunday evenings (in our churches), we arrived at the conclusion, (a) That it is necessary to publish a periodical of some 32 pages, that offers a systematic quarter-year study plan. This quarterly pamphlet would feature the main teachings of the Bible, the doctrines of faith and history of our church, and its mission endeavors, as well as other suitable study and reading material. (b) That Brother P. H. Lange be the chief contributor (and editor) and that the Brethren H. D. Wiebe and W. J. Bestvater work together with him in the preparation of the proposed course and its preparation for print. (c) (The Conference decided) to accept the plan and to implement it. (d) That the first issue be ready for distribution for the first quarter of the year 1934. GCY. 1933, p. 62.

Note. Above committee for youth society was retained by the Conference. GCY, 1933, p. 69.

1936

Note. The committee on youth elected in 1933 gave no report except to recommend nominees for the succeeding committee membership as follows:

1936 — Youth committee

(a) The standing committee on youth nominated the following brethren to serve in the committee (during the following interim): Leslie S. Wiebe, Corn, Oklahoma; C. N. Hiebert, Hillsboro, Kansas; J. H. Richert, Reedley, California; J. H. Voth, Newton, Kansas; John J. Toews, Hepburn, Saskatchewan; (b) The Conference accepted the nominations and gave the new committee directions to continue to work in the cause of youth. GCY, 1936, pp. 65 and 73.

1939 — Youth work

No report on youth work was on hand. The chairman (of the Conference) stated that youth work lies within the confines of the district conferences, but that a discussion of this point on the basis of principles is in order. Various delegates endorsed the election of a strong, central committee to represent the cause of youth, which would do preliminary work, and regulate the publication of the youth-paper, the Christian Leader. It was also recommended, that representatives of our youth endeavors be invited to attend Conference sessions. GCY, 1939, p. 22.

1939 — Youth committee

The Conference elected five brethren as

follows: P. N. Hiebert, J. W. Vogt, John J. Toews, Leslie Wiebe, H. H. Martens. (The committee elected J. W. Vogt, chairman, and P. N. Hiebert, secretary) GCY, 1939, pp. 22 and 63.

Note. The Christian Leader," then a monthly magazine published under the direction of the Youth Committee, 'devoted to the interests of young people and to the cause of Christ in general" made its first appearance on April 1, 1937.

1943 — Report by youth committee, and recommendations

(After Brother J. W. Vogt, chairman, gave a brief oral report of the work of the youth committee, and Brother P. N. Hiebert, secretary, read the written report the Conference adopted the following resolutions): (a) That all churches of our denomination endeavor to have a Christian Fellowship or some form of a young people's organization. The constitution (of the C.F.) provides for such organization which is available and was published in the "Christian Leader." (b) That all youth retreats and youth Bible and inspirational conferences are to be conducted under pastoral or church supervision. (c) That all reports of Conference committee activities are also reported in the "Christian Leader" for the benefit of those who don't read the *Zionsbote*. (d) That the Conference provide for an annual meeting of the Youth Committee and that the Conference empowers the Youth Committee to request one offering a year from each young people's organization for Youth Committee expenses and needs. GCY, 1943, p. 58.

1943 — Committee membership

That Brother G. H. Jantzen of the central

district serve in place of Brother H. H. Martens who was elected into the membership of the Board of Trustees. (The total membership now being — J. W. Vogt, chairman; P. N. Hiebert, secretary; Leslie Wiebe, G. H. Jantzen, Jacob H. Quiring). GCY, 1943, pp. 59 and 81.

1945 — Youth committee plans for the future

(After the committee had reported its future plans to be 1. To make the Christian Leader a bi-weekly paper, 2. To bring the Christian Fellowship organizations of each district into a united working fellowship, and 3. to engage a part-time traveling secretary to visit the various Conference churches in the interest of the Christian Leader and youth work in general, the Conference adopted the following): (a) That we endeavor to unite or coordinate the youth work in the various districts. (b) 1. That we engage a part-time secretary to visit the Conference churches in the interest of the Christian Leader and youth work in general, and to assist the committees of the various retreats and Bible camps in their youth activities. 2. that the newly elected youth committee be instructed to employ at the earliest convenience a full time editor of the Christian Leader, serving also as traveling executive secretary. '1'his party may or may not be a member of the youth committee. 3. That the salary and expenses of this employee be fixed by the youth committee. (c) That the Conference continue the authorization of one offering per church during the ensuing Conference term for the support of the General Conference youth work. GCY, 1945, pp. 66, 67.

1945 — Election of committee

(a) That Brother Arthur Flaming represent the central district conference. (b) That the

resignation of Brother P. N. Hiebert be accepted and that Brother G. H. Jantzen be declared elected in his place to represent the Pacific district. (c) That the youth committee, therefore, consist of: J. W. Vogt, Southern District; Leslie Wiebe, Southern District; Jacob H. Quiring, Northern District; G. H. Jantzen, Pacific District; Arthur Flaming, Central District. GCY, 1945, pp. 67 and 126.

1948 — Young people's work

(After the General Conference youth committee had given its extensive report, the Conference decided as follows): (a) That the Conference express... deep appreciation for the work and reports of the committee. (b) That the Conference authorize the constitution committee (of the Conference) to proceed with the addition of the youth committee to the constitution as a Conference committee (and provide the necessary write-up). (c) (That the following be) elected to the youth committee: G. D. Huebert, J. W. Vogt, Walter Penner, Ernest Lutt, Henry Hooge. (The committee elected the following officers: J. W. Vogt, chairman, Henry Hooge, assistant chairman, Walter Penner, secretary-treasurer). GCY, 1948, pp. 95, 96 and 156.

1951 — Anticipated youth program

(a) That the members of the youth committee be recognized by the district committees as ex-officio members of their committee. (b) That the member at large this year be elected from the Canadian district. (c) That we pledge ourselves anew to carry out the purpose and duties as outlined in the constitutional provision. (d) That our youth treasury supply the travel expense for an exchange for at least one speaker or teacher for each district for the summer Bible camps or youth rallies. (e) That we enlarge on

section 2. b, as per constitution: that is, "to prepare study material for our youth." (f) That we earnestly solicit the help of the leaders of our churches in promoting our youth work and in the introduction of study material. (g) That the name "Youth Fellowship" be applied to our youth organizations as being more descriptive for our group, and less confusing as a name than the name being used at present. (h) To remind all of our churches of the Conference of the constitutional provision of an annual offering for the work of the youth committee. (i) That we ask... sincere prayers in behalf of our committee and for our youth. GCY, 1951, p. 104.

1951 — Vote of thanks to J. W. Vogt

That a vote of thanks be given to Brother Vogt for his untiring and sacrificial labors (as editor of the Christian Leader and chairman of the youth committee). GCY, 1951, p. 105.

1951 — Election of youth committee

The following brethren were elected: Frank C. Peters, Canadian district; Frank Wiens, central district; David J. Wiens, southern district; Arthur Wiebe, Pacific district; John Boldt, member at large. GCY, 1951, pp. 105 and 220.

1954 — Publication of youth material

(a) That we publish the prepared manuscripts on "Stewardship" by Rev. C. E. Fast and "Your Church and You" by Rev. F. C. Peters in quantities allowed by our budget. (b) That the (M.B.) Publishing House handle the sale of these books. (c) That the district youth committees promote the sale of them. (d) That the net proceeds be directed to the Tabor College Scholarship Committee for assistance in the education of

fulltime Christian workers' children. (e) That the present committee remain intact until the production of this material is completed. GCY, 1954, p. 123.

1954 — Youth committee according to provision of new constitution

(a) The Conference elected Brother David J. Wiens as member at large, who also served as executive secretary of the youth committee. (b) The chairmen and secretaries of the youth committees of the U.S.A. districts and the chairmen of the provincial youth committees of Canada, constitute the other members of the youth committee. GCY, 1954, pp. 139 and 189.

1957 — Youth work delegated to “area conference” status

(a) That the report (below) be accepted with gratitude... wishing the youth work in both Canada and in the U.S.A. God's blessing.

(b) **Report.** “The outgoing youth committee of the 1954 Conference completed the work delegated to it by the acceptance of their recommendations. The booklets by Rev. Frank Peters and Rev. C. E. Fast were published and are being sold by the M .B. Publishing House. The profits are to establish a scholarship for children of ministers or Christian workers. No organization following the last Conference was effected, and since the work is to be carried out on an area basis, we have no further report. Respectfully, David J. Wiens (executive secretary).” GCY, 1957, p. 86.

1960

No report was given on youth work at the 1960 General Conference. GCY, 1960, p.

154.

1963 — Youth work

The new constitution adopted in 1963 provides: (a) That the General Conference looks to the district and area conferences for the implementation, promotion, and direction of the youth organization within their areas. (b) That (a Conference) youth committee shall serve as a consultative and advisory body and shall endeavor to gather and make available statistical and other pertinent information on the status, nature, and progress of youth activity and organizations, and report to the Conference findings of general interest and of common concern. (c) That the youth committee of the General Conference shall consist of the chairmen and secretaries of the youth committees of the districts within the U.S.A. area and of the chairmen of the provincial youth committees within the Canadian area. (d) That after each Conference session the committee shall meet for organization, electing from its number a chairman, an assistant chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer, who perform the usual functions incident to these offices. (e) That the committee meet prior to the sessions of the Conference to review its findings, agree on matters and data to be reported to the Conference, to take care of any other business, including its organization. 1963 Conference Constitution, pp. 42, 73, 74.