

MINUTES

of the

THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of the

ONTARIO DISTRICT

of the

PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH

PROTON, ONTARIO

July 16, 1956

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The First Session

The Thirty-first Annual Conference of the Ontario District of the Pilgrim Holiness Church convened at 9:30 a. m. in the Tabernacle at Proton, Ontario, on Monday, July 16, 1956. Rev. H. W. Hobbs led the Assembly in singing "Amazing Grace". Rev. F. A. Hobbs led in prayer.

The District Superintendent, Rev. M. E. Dowson, introduced the Presiding Officer, Rev. R. D. Gunsalus, Second Assistant General Superintendent. Rev. Gunsalus expressed pleasure in the privilege of presiding over the Canadian Conference, and appreciations for the Canadian spirit of frankness tempered with courtesy. He conveyed greetings from the General Superintendent, Rev. Wm. Neff, the First Assistant, Rev. Melvin Snider, and the Executive Council, expressing their interest in the Ontario District.

Rev. Gunsalus then brought an inspirational message, using Ephesians 1: 1-4, 19 and Ephesians 3: 14-21. In his introductions the speaker presented the mighty unchanging God, vitally interested in individuals and in churches. He noted that 1 Peter 5: 7 in the original reads: "Throwing all your anxiety on Him, for His great interest is in you". A sense of attachment to Him and to His church is the antidote to discouragement. Rev. Gunsalus then pointed out from this Scripture facts to feed encouragement: (1) God's character: God is faithful...to reward unobtrusive Christ-devoted service. (2) God's provision complete for every need. In conclusion, he exhorted that delay and testing (as evidences of deeper spirituality) should encourage rather than discourage faith. Let us then pull up to our full stature and allow Him "To do exceeding abundantly above" in this coming year.

The secretary and his assistant, Miss G. White, were called to the secretary's table. Eighteen members responded to the roll-call, as follows: Ordained ministers, J. W. Bray, M. E. Dowson, F. A. Hobbs, Mrs. G. Shaw, Mrs. A. Short; licensed ministers: Charles Jackson; lay delegates: Durham, Mrs. Russel Jackson; Lion's Head, Mrs. Wesley Bridge; Massey, Sam Short; Proton, Mrs. W. McNally; Sault Ste Marie, Mrs. Elizabeth Kerr; Toronto, Mrs. McKay.

By unanimous consent it was agreed that the roll-call be dispensed with in following sessions.

By motion the Conference bar was set to include the first four rows in the two center sections.

The District Superintendent named as Reception Committee Rev. F. A. Hobbs and Rev. Charles Jackson.

By motion the time of Conference was set to include 9:30 to 12:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to adjournment.

The Report of the District Superintendent was read by Rev. M. E. Dowson. Highlights of the report were that 105½ % of the Budget had been met, and that there had been a net gain of 21 in church membership.

It was moved and seconded that this excellent report be received with appreciation.

The Presiding Officer noted that this 13% gain in membership put Ontario at the top in the list of organized districts.

The report was received by a standing vote of appreciation, signified by a hearty Amen.

The Assistant District Superintendent, Rev. H. W. Hobbs, gave an oral report, stating that he had given as much practical help as possible to the Superintendent. Rev. M. E. Dowson gratefully acknowledged this efficient assistance and the report was received.

The Auditing Committee reported that the District Treasurer's books were in good condition. The report was received.

In the absence of Mrs. C. B. Gassie, the Report of the Statistition was read by the Superintendent.

The report, to be amended as may be necessary, was received by common consent.

Following the Statistitions's report, the president of the Conference drew attention to two points - a drop in Sunday School attendance and in the number of pastoral calls. He exhorted that greater attention be given to house-to-house visitation outside our membership, and warned of the danger of misplaced emphasis on externals rather than on Christ, which might hinder useful contact with sinners. Rather, we should be "The friend of sinners" as was our Lord.

The Report of the Sunday School Promotional Secretary (Mrs. C. B. Grassie) was also read by the District Superintendent. Mrs. Grassie reported that though the overall picture of S. S. work in the District was not so bright, two churches had made commendable gains. Proton had made a 12½ % gain in average attendance, and a 100 % gain in Rally Day attendance, and had won the two Certificates of Achievement, the one for highest numerical gain and the other for highest percentage gain. The Proton S.S. Secretary, Mrs. Wm. Duncan, received honourable mention for the promptness of her reports. The Toronto Sunday School had made a gain of 5 in average attendance.

The District Superintendent extended the congratulatory

of the Conference to Rev. C. Winger, pastor of the Proton church, for this excellent progress. Rev. Winger passed on the compliments to his Sunday School Superintendent, Vernon Atkinson, and his Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. A. Baker.

The Report was received with a vote of appreciation to the Promotional Secretary, Mrs. C. B. Grassie. The report of the Committee on Resolutions was called for, and resolutions were then considered separately, as follows:

Resolution No 1.

Resolved that the 1957 Camp-meeting commence on Friday at 8 p.m., and that the first week-end be devoted to Youth interests.

By motion the resolution was received, and by motion adopted.

Resolution No 2.

Resolved that the 1957 Conference convene on the second Friday of Camp-meeting, at 2 p.m., and reconvene on Saturday at 9 a.m.

The resolution was received and after discussion adopted by vote.

Resolution No 3.

Resolved that we explore the possibility of holding a northern zone camp-meeting.

The resolution was received, and amended to read:

Resolved that the District Council explore the possibility of holding a Northern Zone Camp-meeting.

The resolution as amended was adopted by motion.

Resolution No 4.

Resolved that the Camp-meeting Committee be Constituted of the District Superintendent, the pastors of the Proton and Durham church and two laymen from the Proton church and for the Durham church.

By motion the resolution was received and by motion adopted.

The Reception Committee was called to report. They presented the following: Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Betts from Sault Ste Marie; Mrs. R. D. Gunsalus, Mrs. Lela Ewing of the Illinois District; and Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Holton from Lion's Head.

These were introduced to the Conference, and the visitors among them were invited to an honorary seat within the Conference bar.

The District Superintendent appointed the Committee on

Memoirs, Mrs. A. Short and Miss F. White.

The appointed time having expired, the Presiding Officer called the Conference to recess until 1:30 p. m.

Rev. Charles Jackson dismissed the Conference with prayer.

The Second Session.

The Conference reconvened at 1:30p.m. after the noon recess, by singing "What A Friend We Have in Jesus". Rev. F. A. Hobbs was called to pray.

The minutes of the first session were read, corrected and approved.

It was moved and seconded that we receive the transfer of Rev. R. E. Betts from the Michigan to the Ontario district. The motion carried.

Rev. Betts and Rev. R. T. Halton were directed to take their privilege of voting, as members of the Conference.

The Committee on Resolutions was called to continue its report.

Resolution No. 5 was read,

"Resolved that Resolution No. 10 on page 11 of the 1955 Minutes be revised by dropping the word "Executive". The resolution was received, and, after discussion, adopted.

Resolution No. 6 was read,

"Whereas in the recent Annual Meeting the proposal was advanced of disposing of the Bible School Building, the Proton Church Congregation present the following resolution:

'In view of the vital relationship between the Camp Meeting Dormitory and the continuance of the Ontario District Camp Meeting, be is resolved that this building be retained as District Property and that taxes and repairs thereon be considered and met as regular Camp Meeting expenditures'."

The resolution was received by motion.

After some discussion as to the type of dormitory that would be most economical and efficient, and explanation as to why the taxes had been allowed to accrue, the District Council assured the Conference that part of the taxes had already been paid and that the remainder would be paid from funds raised the first Sunday of Camp; but that the investigation concerning the legality of this taxation would be pursued further.

Then by motion a substitute resolution was presented as follows:

Moved and seconded that the resolution be worded: "Be it resolved that a thorough investigation of the cost of repairing the Bible School Building be delegated to the District Council, and the consequent action to be taken thereon be placed on the agenda of the 1957 Conference." Carried.

It was moved and seconded that the substitute resolution be made the main resolution. Carried.

By motion the new resolution was adopted. Was action taken?

The Committee on Ways and Means reported as follows:

Resolution No. 1

Resolved that in addition to Resolutions No. 2 of Ways and Means, 1955 Minutes, page 7, as to the raising of the Budget, an offering be taken in each church for the support of the District Superintendent on the occasion of each of his official visits.

The resolution was received by motion, and by motion adopted.

At this point the Presiding Officer, Rev. R. D. Gunsalus, directed that in regard to the raising of the Budget (under Resolution No. 2 of Ways and Means, 1955 Minutes, page 7,) the District obligations must have priority over General Church obligations.

Resolution No. 2

Resolved that Resolution No. 4 (page 7, 1955 Minutes) be deleted, in view of the inference that no vote had been taken on it.

The resolution was received for discussion.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Resolution No. 4 be tabled, to be brought forward again when desired.

The Report of the Educational and Examining Board was read as follows:

We recommend the following (1) For renewal of Deaconess License: Anne Bridge, Audrey Cole, Julia Heath, and Marjorie Pollard. (2) For renewal of Second Year Ministerial License: Albert Muir, James T. Austin, and Charles Jackson.

It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted. The motion prevailed.

In view of a taxity on the part of local church boards in reporting concerning licentiates, by common consent it was agreed that one year's notice be hereby served that licentiates must have recommendation from their local board, and that a questionnaire be sent to and received from each licentiate before the Examining and Educational Committees shall recommend any license.

The motion was moved, seconded and carried that we secure from the Publishing House, or that the District Superintendent, the Secretary, and the chairman of the Examining Board prepare a suitable questionnaire.

The next business being the election of the District Council, the District Council presented the recommendation of the Executive Council, by which Rev. Philip Doyle of the New York District was nominated as District Superintendent.

After two ballots were cast, it was moved and seconded that a unanimous vote be given to Rev. Philip Doyle as District Superintendent. The motion carried, and the District Secretary was instructed to report by telephone to Rev. Doyle concerning this unanimous vote on his behalf.

Ballots were cast for Assistant District Superintendent. On the first ballot Rev. H. W. Hobbs was elected.

The Superintendent read the recommendation of the District Council regarding the Secretary, offering as nominees Rev. F. A. Hobbs and Rev. C. E. Grassie. On the first ballot Rev. F. A. Hobbs was elected.

The Superintendent presented the nomination of the District Council for Treasurer, Rev. M. E. Dowson and Rev. G. White. On the second ballot Rev. Dowson was elected.

On the first ballot for advisory members of the District Council, Rev. C. Winger and Rev. J. W. Bray were elected.

On the second ballot the third advisory member, Rev. Chas. Jackson, was elected.

The nomination of the District Council for the Examining and Educational Committees was presented: Rev. F. A. Hobbs and Rev. G. White.

By motion the two were declared elected by acclamation.

Resolution No. 4 of Committee on Resolutions was again referred to, as to the two laymen to be elected to the Camp Meeting Committee.

By unanimous consent it was agreed that the pastors of

the Proton and Durham Churches each nominate two laymen from their churches.

Rev. C. Winger nominated Clarence Watson and Earl Walton of the Proton church; Rev. Chas. Jackson nominated Ed Watson and Russel Jackson of the Durham church.

Ballots were cast, electing Russel Jackson and Clarence Watson.

In view of the absence of a new District Superintendent, it was moved and seconded that the presiding District Superintendent re-appoint Committees as they now stand. Carried.

The motion prevailed that the appointment of the promotional Secretary of Sunday Schools, the Statistitian, and the Editing Committee be left to the District Council.

The report of the Committee on Memoirs was read and received by a standing recognition and prayer led by Rev. R. D. Gunsalus.

By motion the District Council was given authority to perform Conference business not taken care of in this Conference.

The Presiding officer then offered the suggestions of the General Board, in view of the Forward Movement as to the objectives of the Ontario District for the coming year.

It was moved and seconded that the following be adopted as our objectives for the new year: One new church, two branch Sunday Schools, and twenty-five new church members. The motion was carried by a hearty Amen.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the General Board that the District Council be set up as a Forward Movement to the Secretary of the Forward Movement Committee of the General Church.

The District Superintendent offered the motion that an expression of appreciation be extended to Rev. R. D. Gunsalus for his efficient presidency of this Conference and for his inspiring address in the morning session.

The motion was seconded, and carried by a standing vote and a hearty Amen.

The motion was presented by Rev. H. W. Hobbs that the Conference express our love for the retiring Superintendent, Rev. M. E. Dowson, with a month's salary as a token of appreciation for his untiring labours as Superintendent.

The motion was seconded, and carried by a hearty Amen.

Rev. R. D. Gunsalus expressed his gratitude for the fine spirit of the Conference and to the secretaries for their good services.

By motion the Conference was adjourned, with the closing prayer offered by Rev. J. W. Bray.

(District Superintendents Reports not available)

(District Sunday School Promotional Secretary Report not available.)

Report on the Committee on Memoirs

Ernest Hobbs

In memory of Bro. Ernest Hobbs, from Jan 2, 1880 and departing this life Nov. 15, 1955. He was a local supporter of local church in Massey, of which he was a charter member, much beloved by a host of friends.

Bertha Shaw

In memory of Sis. Bertha Shaw, she was born June 12, 1902, and in Dec. 1955 was called without warning to stand in the presence of the King of Kings. Always a faithful prayer warrior, her presence is greatly missed, by all who knew here.

Earl Versie

In memory of Bro. Earl Versie, who was suddenly called to be with his Lord on Feb. 6, 1956, at the age of 57 years. He was a charter member of the Durham P. H. Church, when his loss has been keenly felt. He was of a cheeful spirit and was greatly appreciated by young and old, as a consecrated laymen.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolved that all stationed preachers come, send someone, or pay the equivalent of 2 days labor for the preparation for the District Camp and Conference, when called by the District Superintendent.
2. Resolved that each local church supply the parsonage with adequate cooking and heating equipment.
3. Resolved that all money raised for District Funds be forwarded to the District Treasurer at the end of each month and

that each local church close its books after the last Sunday of each month.

4. Resolved that each pastor and the District Superintendent be granted a two week vacation (including 2 Sundays) with pay. Pastors who are not on a stated salary shall receive their vacation pay and Camp Meeting Sunday offerings equivalent to their average weekly offering.
5. Where as the Manual, page 84, Sec. 2 reads as follows: "The annual conference shall reject any recommendation for licensing of any Minister who does not tithe or teach tithing into the P. H. Church.", therefore be it resolved. (1) That each month the local treasurer shall forward the pastors' and evangelists' tithes to the District Treasurer, and (2) that all unstationed or inactive Ministerial members shall support their own donation and local church financially.
6. Resolved that one hundred fifth copies of the Conf. journal be printed and sold for cost.
7. In the light of a taxity which appears to be growing among our people relative to standards of attire, be it resolved that our preachers call the attention of our people to this danger by giving clear exposition of the Scriptures pertaining to this matter and by calling attention to the Manual relative to the same.
8. In as much as several of our schools have correspondence courses to meet the Manual requirements for ministerial candidates, be it resolved that we urge our licensed ministers to use the same in pursuing the course of study.
9. Be it resolved that the district Council act as District Church Extension Committee and have full authority to appoint home Missionary pastors and build and select new locations .
10. Be it resolved that the District Supt. shall appoint the Committees which are to function under the District Council for the ensung year.
11. As experence has proven that moveing furniture by ordinary trucks is costly to the pastor, we recommended that our pastors furniture be moved by regular moving vans.
12. Resolved that are District Council take steps to provide a bookroom for the sale of Holiness literature at the District Camp.
- 13 Resolved that recognizing the part practise of our Conference we adopt the present Manual of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of America and as it may be amended to be the Manual and by laws of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of Canada.

14. Resolved that the District Superintendent sign local Church property deeds along with local trustees.
15. Resolved that the District Treasurer shall close his books for the year as of June 30 and that pastors and local treasurers shall have a grace period of five days in which to ensure that all money receivable in the Conference year shall be in the District Treasurers hands to be Credited as receivable at that date.
16. Resolved that the General Superintendent and the General Secretary plus the Ontario District Council shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of Canada.
17. Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of Canada Constitutè the Board of Trustees for the District.
18. Resolved that the Camp Meeting Committee act as a planing board to draft the complete plan of the Camp Grounds as to roads landscaping, location of buildings and that they provide a building code to prevent rejection of buildings of inferior appearance.