Journals of
Liberia Annual Conference
M. E. Church
1834 - 1837

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Of the Liberia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church during its session in the Town of Monrovia in the year 1834 - Copies from the minutes originally kept.

January 10, 1834.

The Liberia Annual Conference met on the above date, the Rev. Rufus Spaulding, late Missionary from America Presiding.

There were present:

A. D. Williams, Elder,
Solomon Bailey,
Elijah Johnson,
Remus Harvey,
Isaac Welsh,
B. R. Wilson, Missionary

Daniel Brown,
James Moore,
Amos Herring,
Daniel Ware,
Richard Boon,
S. O. Wright.

Isaac Legins, Dead. Charles Harrington, Withdrawn.

Resolved: That Conference sits three hours.
" That Conference rise at one o'clock.
" That no person speak more than twice on the same subject, except to explain.
" That two minutes be the time allowed for each member to express his sentiments.
" That this Conference adopt the Title of the Liberia Annual Conference.
" That B. Wilson, lately from America be received into this Conference, and as Deacon.

The Examination of Preachers.

Resolved: That E. Johnson's character pass.
" That S. Bailey's character pass, and that he hold a supernumerary relation to this Conference.
" That D. Brown's character pass.
" That R. Boon's character pass.
" That Amos Herring's character pass.
" That J. Welsh's character pass.
" That Daniel Ware's character pass.
" That A. D. Williams' character pass.
" That R. Harvey's character pass.
" That B. R. Wilson's character pass.

Question 1. Who have withdrawn this year?
Ans: Charles Harrison.

Question 2. Who have died this year?
Ans: Francis Devany, Isaac Legins.

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to draw up an obituary of the person that have died.
" That R. Harvey, B. R. Wilson, S. O. Wright be the Committee.
" That a committee be appointed to draw up an address to the American Conference.
Resolved: That S. O. Wright, B. R. Wilson, A. Herring and Elijah Johnson be said committee.
" That this Conference receive the vote of thanks from our Brothers in America in relation to the kindness paid to the Rev. Melville B. Cox the deceased.
" That a committee be appointed to associate with the Chair in appointing the Preachers to their respective Stations.
" That A. D. Williams, Elijah Johnson, and R. Boon be the committee.
" That there be a report concerning the erection of a new house.
" That R. Smaulding, A. D. Williams, E. Johnson, H. Tyner and G. R. McGill, be the committee to report next Wednesday at 4 o'clock.
" That E. Johnson appoint some person to fill the Desk this evening.
" That a committee be appointed to recommend A. Herring to this Conference for Ordination to Deacon's and Elder's Orders.
" That S. O. Wright, R. Harvey be a committee to report a plan of operation for Sabbath Schools.
" That the Conference adjourn until 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

- - - - - - - - - - -

SATURDAY MORNING
10 o'clock
- - - - - - - - - - -

Conference met according to adjournment and after a chapter and singing and also prayer, commenced to do its further business.

Resolved: That the report of the committee appointed to recommend A. Herring to this Conference for Deacon's and Elder's Orders be received.
" That Brother B. R. Wilson be elected to Elder's Orders and also be recommend to authorities in America for the same as Committee.
" That the Chair appoints the committee to report on Sabbath Schools make their report to the Chair as soon as possible.
" That the Conference recommend to the Trustees the repairing of the Church.
" That the Conference cordially approve of the efforts of our American Brothers to propagate the Gospel in Africa, by Missionary efforts, and that we will use all lawful and expedient means, in our power as a Conference, and as individuals to promote the spread of the Gospel among the Heathen Tribes, and to effect the accomplishment of the glorious design of the American Methodists in enlightening Africa.

Resolved: That a camp meeting be held the last Thursday in the vicinity of Caldwell.
"WHEREAS the use of ardent spirits as a drink is destructive to peace and morals of communities and families, be it therefore resolved by the Conference, that we will abstain from the use of it ourselves, and provide it in case of absolute necessity, and only for our families, and that we will use our influence to discourage the use of it, among all with whom we have intercourse. The Yeas -- -- 10. Nays -- --3.

Resolved: That we will endeavor by all lawful and prudential means to procure the formation of Temperance societies in the Settlements in the Colony. Yeas 11. Nays 3.

"WHEREAS, since the last session of the Conference it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death our beloved and respected Superintendent, Brother W. B. Cox, be it therefore resolved that the members of this conference deeply sympathise with this loss for so deeply devoted and useful a Minister of the Gospel.

Resolved: That our present Superintendent, Rev. R. Spoonling be requested to preach a funeral sermon according to Rev. Cox's request from the words which he selected.

Resolved: That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of erecting or causing to be erected a suitable Tablet to his memory in some part of the contemplated new Meeting House.

The Committee appointed by the Chair be as follows: S. O. Wright, A. D. Williams and Elijah Johnson.

This certifies that the above is a copy verbatim of of the Liberia Annual Conference of 1834 made by me from the papers which fell into my hands on taking charge of the Mission.

Rev. John Seys,
Superintendent of the Mission.

Monrovia,
Liberia,
2nd of March,
1834.
Of the Liberia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in Monrovia, 8th of January 1835.

The Conference assembled at 10 o'clock A.M., in the Methodist Episcopal Meeting House at Monrovia.

PRESENT PERSONS WERE:-

The Rev. John Seys, Missionary from the United States
Solomon Bailey; 
A. D. Williams, 
D. Brown, 
B. R. Wilson; 
Renus Harvey, 
R. Boon.

Conference opened by the Rev. John Seys with singing and Reading of the Scriptures and prayer, Renus Harvey acting as Secretary.

It was voted that the credentials of Rev. Seys as Superintendent of the Liberian Missions of the M. E. Church in the absence of R. Spaulding be read.

Resolved: That the appointment of Rev. John Seys be received and adopted. On motion by B. R. Wilson that in consequence of the constitution; at adoption of the Rev. John Seys to an African climate, he being born and brought up in the West Indian Islands, a memorial be addressed by this Conference to the Rev. Bishop Hedding of the M. E. Church in America requesting him to appoint the Rev. J. Seys to the permanent Superintendent of the Liberian Mission.

Resolved: That Conference do its business with closed doors. 
" That Conference have but one Session per day from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. 
" That some fine be laid upon the members of the Conference impelling them to punctuality of attendance and that said fine be imposed by the Superintendent.

Question 1. Who are admitted on trial? 
Samson Caesar, recommended by the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the Caldwell and New Georgia Circuit was unanimously admitted. Francis Burns a licensed local Preacher lately from the Windham and Durham Circuit, the Hudson River District, New York Conference, was recommended by the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the Monrovia Station and was unanimously admitted.

Question 2. Who remained on trial? Laid over until tomorrow.
Ques: 3. Who are admitted in full connection? Ans: None.
Ques: 4. Who are the Deacons?

Renus Harvey, character pass.
Solomon Bailey, " "
Daniel Brown, " "
James Moore, " "

These have been elected to Deacon's Orders, but not ordained for the want of a Bishop.

Ques: 5. Who have been elected to Elder's Orders?
Richard Boon, character; and elected to Deacon's and Elder's Orders. B. R. Wilson character pass.

" 6. Who have located this year? None.
" 7. Who are the supernumerary? S. Bayley.
" 8. Who are the Superannuated or worn out Preachers? None.
" 9. Who have been expelled from the connexion this year? None.
" 10. Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?

" 11. Were all the Preachers' character passed?
A. D. Williams, character pass.
Amos Herring, " Still in the United States.
Isaac Welsh, " Removed to Cape Palmas.

Ques: 12. Who have died this year? None.

Resolved: That the Superintendent be requested to inform Brother Welsh at Cape Palmas and send him a certificate of his having been a member of this Conference.

Resolved: That the members of this Conference or in other words of the Liberia Conference Temperance Society fully impressed with the increasing importance of the cause in which they have engaged and the powerful and statutory influence it is calculated to exert in the Church, as well as in the Community at large, with a view to the more extensive enjoyment of the privileges of this Society, adopt the following amended Constitutions.

See the Secretary's book of the proceedings of the Liberian Temperance Society of the M. E. Church.

Resolved: That Francis Burns, Samson Caesar, and R. Harvey be the committee to draw up the memorial to Bishop Hedding.
That Elijah Johnson, Richard Boon, and B. R. Wilson be appointed a committee to investigate the State of Discipline throughout the Conference and report accordingly.

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to assist the Superintendent in making out the appointments for the ensuing year, and that he select him himself.
A. D. Williams and B. R. Wilson were selected. Conference adjourned at 2 o'clock P.M. with singing and prayer was given by the Rev. A. D. Williams.

Conference assembled at 9 A.M. and opened by the Superintendent with singing and reading of the Scriptures. Prayer by Solomon Bailey.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and accepted. There were present:-

Rev. A. D. Williams; Rev. Remus Harvey;
Rev. B. R. Wilson; Rev. Daniel Brown;
Rev. Solomon Bailey; Rev. Francis Burns;
Rev. Elijah Johnson; Rev. Samson Cressar.

Question 2 was resumed. Who remained on Trial?

The case of Daniel Ware, stationed at Caldwell during the last year and suspended from preaching on an accusation of being married to a woman whose husband was living in the United States, went into a full and circumstantial investigation, witnesses being examined and the case argued at much length it appeared to the Conference:-

1st. That there was no proof that the woman in question was legally married to the man whom she left in America, but strong grounds to believe they were living together in a state of concubinage.

2nd. That it was satisfactorily told or shown that he had taken up with another woman and was spending his means on her previous to the departure of her who is Ware's wife.

3rd. That the woman was compelled to come to Liberia, or by the Laws of the State return to Slavery in a short time.

4th. That her said husband was a slave, that $1000 was demanded from him and independently of his indifference to leave his concubine it was scarcely probable that he would ever raise the means to effect his emancipation.

5th. That the woman in question had been 4 years in Liberia, had joined the Methodist Church, was of irreproachable character, and conceiving after such a lapse of time, that with whom she had formerly lived, would never join her in Africa, thought herself no longer bound to him and accepted the offer of D. Ware.

6th. That Brother Ware's character had always stood high in the estimation of his Brethren and of the community. That when an investigation took place, and he was suspended he offered if he had done wrong to leave the woman immediately if his brethren thought best, and that before taking this step he had consulted with some of his brethren and was not dissuaded from his purpose.
The case was at last put to vote, and Daniel Ware was remained on Trial.

Elijah Johnson's character pass. He was elected to Deacon's and Elder's Orders.

Question 12: Question 12 was resumed. What members are in Society?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millsburg</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total. . . . 204

The report of the Schools supported by the Mission was now taken up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Pupils</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>Day School</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>F. Burns,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Georgia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>S. Caesar,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>F. Lewis,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millsburg</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>R. Harvey,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>Bible Class</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>F. Burns,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>Sabbath School</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Leader,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina</td>
<td>Sabbath School</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>90 Volume of Books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resolved: That the request contained in the very polite letter received this day from the members of the 1st Baptist Church that members of this Conference occupy their pulpits on the next Sabbath be granted and the Secretary be requested to answer them accordingly.

Resolved: That the Superintendent be requested to appoint Preachers to labour in the Baptist Churches; the Second Baptist Church having made a similar request in a verbal manner to the Rev. John Seys.

Resolved: That the memorial prepared by the Committee to Bishop Hedding be and read to the Conference be adopted, and signed by the members. This was done.

A motion was made, but not seconded, to alter the name of the Temperance Society lately organized.

Resolved: That the appellation given to the newly organized Temperance Society viz:- The Liberia Temperance Society of the Methodist Church be and remain unaltered.

Conference adjourned at 2 P.M. with singing and Prayer by the Rev. Elijah Johnson.
Conference assembled at 9 o'clock and was opened by the Superintendent with singing and reading of the Scriptures. Prayer was given by the Rev. Daniel Ware.

There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt., Rev. Richard Boon,
Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. Daniel Brown,
Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. Francis Burns,

The Secretary being prevented from attending on account of severe indisposition of body, the Superintendent was requested to keep the Journal of the Conference for the day, the minutes of yesterday were read and approved. The committee to whom it was referred to investigate the present State of Discipline in the Church beg leave to report.

"That it is with much satisfaction they discovered that the Discipline of the M. E. Church as a general thing is attended to by the membership and Preachers, but it is also with much regret they have to add that in some cases it is otherwise and that our excellent general rules are violated and among the membership and that too with impunity. The Committee are however of the opinion that this has chiefly, if not always; arisen from the circumstances that many of the Preachers in charge of circuits were stationed where it was practicable for them to take up their residences. That during the intervals between their visits to their respective charges which were not as frequent as could be desired in consequence of the difficulties and expenses of travelling in this country. The flock in want of a shepherd would be apt to stay into forbidden paths. The Committee are sanguine in their expectations. However that if this point is attended to in the appointments for the ensuing year, the growing evil will be remedied and the Liberia Annual Conference blessed with a Ministry and Membership blameless in their lives, and faithful to their Discipline of their Conference."

10th of January,
1835.

(Signed) B. R. Wilson,
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.

On motion regularly moved and seconded the following resolutions were unanimously passed Viz:-
Resolved: That this Conference deeply realizing the want or Ordained Ministers among them, a deprivation which much retards the spiritual growth of the membership who are thus deprived of the Ordinances of the Lord's House, and whereas it is impracticable in every case for individuals elected to Ordination to consume the time or incur the expense of a visit to the United States for this purpose; Respectfully solicits of the Methodist Episcopal Church with a visit from one of the Bishops of the said Church or to elect and ordain some suitable Elder to the Episcopal Office to reside among them.

Resolved: That the Superintendent of the Mission be requested to prepare a course of Study to be pursued by the Preachers who are now or may be here after received on trials into this Conference and that a copy of the same be furnished each member.

Resolved: That this Conference lamenting the present dilapidated condition of our Meeting House in Monrovia, and its insufficiency in point of size to accommodate our congregations on all occasions and being conscious that the resources of our members and friends in the colony are not adequate to the erection of the New Church, now in contemplation, present the case before our Fathers and Brethren in America and solicit their pecuniary aid in the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

Resolved: That this Conference deeply aware of the vast importance of the Sabbath School Institution, deem it an essential part of the duty of those Preachers having charge of Circuits where no such Schools have been already organized, to make every exertion without delay to have them go into immediate operation.

Resolved: That this Conference regarding with much satisfaction the beneficial tendency with which the late efforts in the cause of Temperance have been attended in the town of Monrovia do enjoin it as a duty on the Preachers having charge of Circuits or Stations to form as soon as practicable within their respective charges, Auxiliary Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Resolved: That it be the duty of the members of the Conference as soon as may be convenient to introduce among the membership the system of weekly class collections for the purposes of meeting the contingent expenses of the respective Societies and of assisting in the support of the Ministry, no regular provision having been made for either of these objects.

Resolved: That a Camp Meeting be held in the Township of Caldwell to commence on Thursday 12th, and that Brothers Elijah Johnson, A. D. Williams and Daniel Ware be a Committee to select that spot.
Resolved: That in consequence of the want of circulating medium of either specie of paper in the colony, and hence the inconvenience in reference to weekly class collections, that the Superintendent be requested to furnish each Society with a suitable number of tickets of various valuations signed by himself and which may be purchased by the Membership and repaid in their class collections.

Resolved: That this Conference remember in their addresses to a throne of Grace (Devine) Brothers Wilson and Boon who are about returning to the United States on a visit.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be publicly presented by the Superintendent from the pulpit to the citizens of Monrovia for their hospitality and attention to the members of the Conference during their session.

Resolved: That the thanks of this Conference be rendered to the Rev. John Says, Superintendent, for the time being of the Liberia Mission of the M. E. Church, for the very acceptable and affectionate manner in which he has attended to the arduous labour and business of the Conference during its present session.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. R. Harvey, for the services as Secretary on the present session.

Resolved: That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the Brethren of the Baptist Churches for the use of their pulpits on the Sabbaths.

Resolved: That whereas it is contemplated by the Superintendent to return to America in the Spring of this year, for the purpose of removing his family to this Country, that this Conference remember him at the Throne of Grace, praying that he may be returned in peace and safety to his present field of labour and spared to continue the holy and beneficial influence in the community which he has exerted since his arrival in Africa.

Question 14. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

The appointments were read off at the close of the Conference, as follows:-

Monrovia                     Elijah Johnson, F. Burns,
Millsburg
Upper Caldwell
Lower Caldwell                 Daniel Brown & S. Bauley,
New Georgia                  Supernumerary.
Edina, Bassa Cove            Daniel Ware,
Cape Mount, Bushrod Island and Mamy Town also Pessah Town are to be supplied.
Ques: 15. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?
Ans: In Monrovia on Thursday, the 7th of January 1836.

Conference now closed at 12 o’clock by the Superintendent with singing, prayer and benediction.

John Seys,
SUPERINTENDENT

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death the Rev. R. Harvey and that too before he had an opportunity of signing the Journal as Secretary of the Conference, we the undersigned by the request of the Superintendent do hereby certify that it contains a faithful record of the proceedings of our late Session.

(Signed):
Elijah Johnson,
B. R. Wilson.

Monrovia, Liberia,
2nd of March, 1835

24TH OF AUGUST,
1 8 3 5

At An Extra Meeting Of The Liberia Conference There Were Present:-

Rev. John Seys, Superintendent,
Rev. John B. Barton,
Rev. A. D. Williams,
Rev. Elijah Johnson,
Rev. Daniel Ware,
Rev. S. Caesar,
Rev. Francis Burns.

Conference opened with singing and prayers by the Superintendent, the Rev. J. B. Barton of Georgia Conference assigned for Grand Bassa was then introduced to the Conference by the Superintendent and accepted. F. Burns was appointed Secretary.

The Rev. Glover Simpson a local Deacon of the Mississippi Conference was introduced.

The appointment of the Rev. John Seys to the General Superintendency of the Liberia Mission was read and accepted. The Superintendent than informed the Conference of the opinion of the Bishops and Brethren in America. The Superintendent also read a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society in which they recommended the Liberia District Conference to Memorialize the General Conference on this subject, and to nominate the man whom they wished to be ordained as Bishop.
Resolved: That the Chairman appoint a committee to draw up said Memorial. On which J. B. Barton, A. D. Williams and F. Burns were appointed.

The Conference then proceeded to elect an individual to be nominated as their Bishop, on which the Rev. John Seys, Superintendent of the Mission was unanimously chosen and the Committee requested to memorialize accordingly.

Resolved: That the Conference adjourn until tomorrow 9 o'clock when the Committee shall present the memorial. Closed with Prayer by the Rev. A. D. Williams.

The Conference was opened by the Rev. Elijah Johnson on the 25th of August at 9 o'clock A.M. with singing and Prayer.

On motion, the memorial was then presented and read and was unanimously accepted.

A vote of thanks was given to the Committee for their attention to the request of the Conference.

Closed with Prayer by the Rev. J. B. Barton.

Rev. John Seys,
SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE MISSION.

Rev. Francis Burns,
S.E. C.R.E.T.A.R.Y.

End of the Conference of 1835.
MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE
OF
1836

The Conference assembled on Thursday at 10 o'clock A.M. on the 7th of January 1936 in the M. E. Church in Monrovia and opened with singing, reading of the Scriptures. Prayer was given by the Superintendent.

There were present:--

Rev. John Seys,  Rev. F. Burns,
Rev. J. B. Barton,  Rev. Solomon Bayley,
Rev. A. D. Williams,  Rev. D. Brown,
Rev. Elijah Johnson,  Rev. Daniel Ware.

Resolved: That J. B. Barton serve as Secretary to this Conference and that the Conference hold one Session per day from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Question 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Que: 2. Who remained on trial?
Ans: Francis Burns.

Que: 3. Who are admitted into full connexion?
Ans: Daniel Ware. He was elected to Deacon's Order.

Que: 4. Who are the Deacons elected?
Ans: Solomon Bayley - - - - - - - - - Character passed,
Daniel Ware - - - - - - - - - Character passed,
James Moore - - - - - - - - - Character passed.

Daniel Brown on examination was found to have been very neglectful of his charge during the year, but making an excuse on account of the continued sickness of his family of which the Conference was convinced, his character was passed.

Que: 5. Who has been elected to Elder's Orders?
Ans: None.

Que: 6. Who has been elected by the Suffrage of this Conference and recommended to the General Conference to exercise the Episcopal Office and to superintend the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa?

Que: 7. Who have located this year?
Ans: None.

Que: 8. Who are the Supernumaries?
Ans: Solomon Bayley.
Ques: 9. Who are the superannuated or worn out Preachers?  
Ans:  None.

Ques: 10. Who have been expelled from the Connexion this year?  
Ans:  None.

Ques: 11. Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?  
Ans:  None.

Ques: 12. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation?  
   This was strictly attended to by examining the Preachers individually.

   A. D. Williams  - - - - - - - - Character passed.
   Elijah Johnson  - - - - - - - - "  "
   Amos Herring and B. R. Wilson not yet returned from the United States of America.

Ques: 13. Who have died this year?  
Ans:  Reunus Harvey, R. Boon, Isaac Welsh of Cape Palma and Samson Caesar.

Ques: 14. What numbers are in society? Put off untill tomorrow.

Resolved: That Francis Burns, J. B. Barton and Daniel Ware be a committee to make a report to this Conference of the State of Discipline throughout the M. E. Church in Liberia.

Resolved: That the name of the Liberia Temperance Society be changed and in future it be denominated the Liberia Temperance Society.

Conference adjourn at 10 o'clock to meet tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.
Closed with Prayer by the Rev. A. D. Williams.

FRIDAY 8TH OF JANUARY
1836.

Conference did not assemble until 10 o'clock. AtM. Opened by the Superintendent with singing and reading of the Scriptures. Prayer be the Rev. J. B. Barton.

The Journal of the preceding day was read by the Secretary and accepted.
There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.  Rev. A. D. Williams,
Rev. J. B. Barton,  Rev. Daniel Ware,
Rev. S. Bayley,  Rev. D. Brown,
Rev. F. Burns,  Rev. Elijah Johnson,

Ques: 14 was resumed. What numbers are in society?
Resolved: That the invitation of our Baptist Brethren be accepted and that the Superintendent appoint the Preachers to labour in their Church on the next Lord's Day.

The Committee appointed to investigate the State of Discipline among the members of our Church; have the happiness of reporting to this body that the knowledge of the doctrines and usages of our Church is on its onward march. A want of an acquaintance with elements of language; that insurmountable barrier "Cannot read" has been a presenting difficulty to coming adept in Discipline, but the Committee are strong in the presumption that these difficulties are being overcome, and that the members of our churches will soon by the blessing of God, strongly versed in the theory of Methodism. They are aware many causes have conspired to render deficiencies in this particular species of information more general and apparent, but they would say that at the day of increased, and increasing sight, these causes are in many instances removed, and in other removable. Were we the Ministers of the Gospel of Christ to resort to the most active measures to remedy this evil, by preachment and talking to our members in their individual and collective capacities of the subject of Church Government. Your Committee are convinced that at the Session of the next Conference, the State of Discipline among us will present a new aspect. A copy of our rules should be placed in the hands of every member who can read, and as the desk is the only medicine of instruction to many comprising a part of our congregation, the duty is more imperative upon us, as the eye of the Church to lead the blind in paths they know not. We would most affectionately recommend to our Brethren and Fathers in the Ministry to make an effort for the improvement of our Church or members in this respect, and may God upon whom this Church is built set his seal to our resolutions, and grant His blessings upon our endeavors.

(Sgd.) F. Burns,

C H A I R M A N.
Resolved: That this Conference convinced from the success which has already attended, the persevering efforts of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church for the spiritual welfare of the people in Liberia and the spread of the Gospel on this continent. That it is one of the most efficient means by which Divine Providence will bring about the salvation of Africa do pledge themselves to beseech a "Throne of Grace" more fervently than ever, to bless and prosper them in all their benevolent plans, and to raise up more devoted men as instruments in their hands by whom to send the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the Earth.

Resolved: That this Conference through the medium of the Superintendent present to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, their united and most grateful acknowledgements for the very liberal donations appropriated for the erection of the New Church in Monrovia.

Resolved: That this Conference with a view to promote the cause of Christ generally, and restore in the spirit of meekness and love, such as have erred and wandered, appoint Elijah Johnson, A. D. Williams, and G. R. McGill as a committee to wait on the Rev. Charles Butler, pastor of the Protestant Methodist Church in this place, who with a large party left the M. E. Church in the year 1833, and negotiate with him for an amiable settlement of the difference which led to a separation and endeavor to bring about a reunion of the two Societies.

Resolved: That a Camp Meeting be held in the Township of Caldwell to commence on the last Thursday in February and that A. D. Williams, Daniel Ware, and Jerimiah Nixon (Exporters) be a Committee to make arrangements for same.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be presented to the Superintendent for his attention to the interest of the Church, during his visit to the United States of America for his services during the present Session of the Conference.

Resolved: That the thanks of this Conference be presented to the Rev. J. B. Barton, for the active services as Secretary during the present session of this Conference.

Ques: 15. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

Ans: Monrovia  E. Johnson and G. Simpson.
    Middlesburg  G. R. McGill.
    Up. & Lr.  A. D. Williams.
       Caldwell  James Moore.
       Edina  Henry Mumford.
       Bushrod Island  Henry Mumford.

Mission to the Congoes supplied with a School teacher for the present Mission to Cape Palmae. . . . . . Francis Burns. A. Herring, and E. R. Wilson not yet returned from the United States.

Ques: 16. When and where shall our next Conference be held?

Ans: On the fifth day of January 1837 in Monrovia.
Conference adjourned. Prayer and benediction by the Superintendent.

Rev. John Seys,
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

At an extra meeting of the members of the Liberia Conference of the M. E. Church, called by the Superintendent and held in the Township of Monrovia in the month of July, the 21st. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.
Rev. A. D. Williams,
Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. Gloster Simpson,

Rev. Daniel Ware,
Rev. G. R. McGill,
Rev. Henry Mumford.

The meeting was opened by the Superintendent with singing and Prayer. The Rev. G. R. McGill was on the occasion elected unanimously as Secretary. The Superintendent addressed the Conference informing them that having several communications read from respectable members of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, which he read to the Conference, all of which gave the strongest reason to believe that the memorial of the Conference to the General Conference in the United States dated last August in the subject of the election and ordination of a Bishop would be granted. And WHEREAS it was also intimated that it would be necessary for him to make a visit to the United States, that under these circumstances he wished an expression of the Conference, as to the prudence and property of him taking such a step immediately in view of the lateness of the season, and the expediency of endeavoring to go and return before the next Session of the Conference. Upon which a document was presented by the Rev. B. R. Wilson, which it was Resolved should be read which was as follows:

"We the members of the Liberia District Conference of the M. E. Church having with much anxiety awaited the result of our memorial of last August, addressed to the General Conference of the M. E. Church soliciting our being constitutional and Annual Conference and praying also the election and ordination of our present Superintendent, the Rev. John Seys, to the Episcopal Office for the future furtherance of the cause of God in this Country, and perceiving from several communications which have been received by the said Rev. John Seys from respectable members of your Board, that it was the prevailing opinion among you, that competition would be granted by the General Conference, and feeling sensibly the advantage that would occur to us could we be furnished with his services in that office at our regular Annual Session in January next; have taken upon us after mature deliberation (notwithstanding no definite communication has reached us since the session of the General Conference) to advise the said John Seys to avail himself of the favorable opportunity now offered to go to the United States immediately, ardently hoping that should the election of the General Conference been in accordance with our views that measures will be taken to carry into effect.
the object contemplated as speedily as possible, that he may be
able to return to his charge among us, previous to our next
Session. We should also observe to our respected brethren that
even in the event of the failure of our memorial, we shall not
regret having advised this visit of Brother Seys to the United
States of America in as much as his health which has been very
poor since the commencement of the rainy season, may in all pro-
bability be much benefitted by the change of the climate, and his
visit in other respects subserves the cause of God our Saviour.
Praying for the continued success of the Great Missionary opera-
tions under your supervision and management and a remembrance in
your Christian regards and Prayers.

We are, respected Brethren,

Your affectionate and humble servants.

Monrovia
21st of July, 1836.

To:-
The President and members of the Board of Managers of
the M. E. Church, New York, United States of North America.

Upon the reading of this letter, it was moved and seconded and
unanimously resolved:

That the said letter be accepted, signed and forwarded to the
Board of Managers. It was consequently signed by the Con-
ference and delivered to the Superintendent.

Conference having recommended to the Superintendent, make every
efforts to promote the cause of the Redeemed during his visit
to the United States of America, and particularly in the part
of the Lord's Vineyard, and an adjournment was moved and the
Conference closed by the Rev. A. D. Williams with Singing and
Prayer.

Rev. John Seys,
SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. G. R. McGill,
SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE.

Monrovia,
21st of July,
1836.
Conference assembled on Thursday the 5th of January 1837 at 9 o'clock A.M. in the Presbyterian Church Monrovia, (which was borrowed for the purpose) and was opened with Singing and Reading of the Scriptures and Prayer by the Superintendent of the Mission.

There were present:

Rev. John Seyes, Supt.  
Rev. S. Chase, (Missionary)  
Rev. Elijah Johnson,  
Rev. Amos Herring,  
Rev. S. R. Wilson,  

Rev. Daniel Ware,  
Rev. Gloster Simpson,  
Rev. H. Mumford,  
Rev. Francis Burns,  
Rev. G. S. Brown (visitor).


Francis Burns was nominated and duly elected as Secretary.

Resolved: That Conference do its business with closed doors.
Resolved: That we have one Session per day from 9 o'clock A.M. to 1 P.M.

The Superintendent now addressed the Conference by informing them that he had been officially notified of the result of their memorial to the General Conference. During the conflagration in New York, in February last which consumed the Book room, that document had been destroyed and consequently never had been presented to the General Conference; nevertheless, having forwarded it open to the Board of Managers, the contents were known and certificate accordingly forwarded to the Central Conference. The result was that that body had granted in part the request of this Conference, setting them off as an Annual Body with the restriction of sending no delegate to the General Conference, and having no claim on the chartered fund, or avail on the Book concern.

That in reference to the Resident Bishop, none had been elected as the General Conference thought the work in Africa did not yet call for it, but that one of the Bishop, Rev. J. O. Andrew would visit this Conference during the present year. The Superintendent then proposed to the Conference that they should organize themselves into a regular Conference in accordance with the order of the General Conference contained in the Discipline (page 154) and suggested the following methods for the purpose, one of which they would do well to choose.

First:—He proposed that they continue to do their work as the Annual Conference and as hitherto without any attention having the name and embracing the powers and privileges granted them, or

Secondly:—Consider as null and void, all previous doings and let each member, be received at this Session as a probationer, Or—

Thirdly:—Consider the three missionaries who were attached to the
Mission, and who were regular members of the Annual Conferences in America as constituting the Liberia Mission. Annual Conference and they proceed to receive all others who may wish to join. After a long and warm discussion, the following preamble and resolution proposed by Rev. S. Chase was unanimously adopted.

"Whereas by provision of the Discipline, chapter 1, section 8, Preachers may be received into the travelling connexion in the intervals of the Annual Conferences, either by a Bishop or the Preacher in charge of the District where such Preachers may reside and whereas the Superintendent of the Foreign Missions, under the care of the M. E. Church have authority at least equal to that of the or any Presiding Elders at home, and whereas several persons licensed, and ordained by the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission, and whereas those thus received, have several times met (the superintendent of the Mission presiding) and passed through all the usual forms of enquiry and examination usually attended to in regular Annual Conference, and with full impression that were in fact legally such a Conference. Therefore, be it resolved that the rule of Discipline which requires two full years of probation subsequent to the formal reception of Preacher at an Annual Conference, before he can be received into full connexion, will not be violated in its true intent and spirit (especially under the unprecedented and peculiar circumstance) by two years of acceptable itinerant labor under the supervision of those who have served in the Superintendency of the Liberia Mission and who have also passed through in regular Annual Conference and more over deem it consistent with the true intent and spirit of the above named rule, to consider those who may have first completed two full years of probation under the circumstances in the manner above stated, and refered to, as being --now eligible to admission into full connexion, while such as have traveled but one year shall be considered eligible (so far as the term of probation is concerned) for such admission at the expiration of another year".

Ques: 1. Who are admitted on trial?
Ans: Henry B. Mathews.

Conference adjourn at 1 o'clock to meet at 9 o'clock tomorrow.

Closed by B. R. Wilson with Prayer.

FRIDAY JANUARY 6,
1837

Conference assembled at 9 A.M. Opened with Singing, Reading of the Scriptures by the Superintendent and Prayer by A. Herring.

All Present. Minutes of the preceding session were approved. The Rev. Chase after a few preliminary remarks on the discussion of yesterday moved the following resolution. Viz:-

"WHEREAS the General Conference of the M. E. Church in the United States of America, during their Session in May last, did provide for and determine that there should be on the Western Coast of Africa
an Annual Conference possessing all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference and of its Annual dividend from the avail of the Book Concern and chartered fund. Therefore be it Resolved: That we their Sons in the Gospel hitherto recognized by them as the “Local Preachers’ Conference”, of the M. E. Church on the Western Coast of Africa, do hereby most thankfully accent the above named grants of powers, rights, and privileges as made to them by their Fathers and Brethren satisfaction with the two restrictive items, contained in the order of the late General Conference as above named fully believing that the members of the Honourable Body were influenced by the best of motives, and considerations while making restrictions that were probably designed to be only of temporary durations, and we would entreat, that inasmuch as the order of General Conference which provides for the existence of an Annual Conference as aforesaid without specifying how it should be constituted such, that our much esteemed Fathers and Brethren in America will take no offence, because of the ecclesiastical rights and privileges which they have so kindly and seasonably granted us. Believing as we do the method we have taken for this purpose, is best in view of all the circumstances of our condition.

Resolved: That the above motion of S. Chase be laid on the table until tomorrow.

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to investigate the state of Discipline, within the Conference and report accordingly and that said committee be appointed by the Superintendent, whereon Amos Herring, B. R. Wilson and Francis Burns were appointed.

Resolved: That a committee of two, be appointed to assist the Superintendent in meeting out the appointments for the ensuing year. A. Herring, and B. R. Wilson were elected.

Ques: 2. Who remained on trial?

Ques: 3. Who have been admitted into full connexion?
Ans: Francis Burns, he was elected to Deacon’s Orders.

During the examination of this, Brother Burns requested information respecting a point in which he stated there was a difference of opinion, and in practice prevailing among the members of this Conference. It was, considered as eligible to receive the rite of Baptism. A lengthy discussion now took place, upon which it was Resolved: That a Committee be appointed by the Chair to propose some uniform mode by which the practice of the Preachers should be governed in the future.

The appointed Committee consisted of S. Chase, B. R. Wilson, A. Herring, F. Burns and G. Simpson. Brother Burns pleading indisposition was released by the Conference for the day; and Amos Herring elected to serve as Secretary in his stead.

Ques: 4. Who are the Deacons? Ans: Solomon Bayley, character pass. Daniel Ware, character pass and James Moore, character pass.
Ques: 5. Who has been elected to Elders Orders this year?
Ans: None.

Ques: 6. Who have been elected by the suffrage of the General Conference to exercise the Episcopal Office and to Superintend the M. E. Church in Africa?
Ans: None.

Ques: 7. Who have located this year?
Ans: None.

Ques: 8. Who are the Supernumeraries?
Ans: G. R. McGill.

Ques: 9. Who are the Superannuated or worn out Preachers?
Ans: Solomon Bayley.

Ques: 10. Who have been expelled from the connexion this year?
Ans: None.

Ques: 11. Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?
Ans: None.

Ques: 12. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation?
Ans: This was strictly attended to by the examination of the Preachers individually. A. D. Williams, character pass. A. Herring, Elijah Johnson and B. R. Wilson characters passed. Conference now adjourned (it being 1 P.M.) to meet at 9 A.M. tomorrow. Closed with Prayer by the Rev. S. Chase.

SATURDAY JANUARY 7, 1837

Conference assembled at 9 o'clock and was opened by the Rev. S. Chase with singing and reading of the Scriptures. Prayer was given by a Brother.

There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.
Rev. A. Herring,
Rev. E. Johnson,
Rev. S. Bayley,
Rev. F. Burns,
Rev. H. B. Mathews,
Rev. S. Chase,
Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. G. Simpson,
Rev. H. Mumford,
Rev. D. Wafe.

The Journal of yesterday were read and adopted. The motion of Brother Chase was now taken up and considered. After a long and warm discussion as to the propriety of expressing entire satisfaction at the restrictions which the Rev. S. Chase expressed his dissatisfaction that there should be any objections at all to its adoptions, moved for a reconsideration. It was therefore Resolved to consider the motion, and after a still more full and lengthy discussion with some explanation on part of the Superintendent, in reference to the order of the late General Conference. The motion was carried by a still larger majority, but yet not unanimously.

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Examination of characters resumed. John B. Barton, character pass.

Ques: 13. Who have died this year? Ans: Daniel Brown.
The Chair proposed that a sermon be preached during the Session of
this Conference, on the melancholy event of the death of Brother
Brown, who was drowned in the river. Resolved that it be so, and that
the Superintendent appoint the individual. Amos Herring was therefore
appointed, and Sabbath Evening appointed for the time.

Ques: 14. What numbers are in Society?
Total...417. Last Year...340. Increased...77.

Schools:
Day Schools:
Cape Palmas, 50. Total...216 Day Schools. Pupils.
Sabbath Schools:
Monrovia, 53. Edina, 50. Total Pupils in Sabbath school...103.

The Superintendent now proposed to the Conference the organization
of a Conference Missionary Society, stating that all the Annual Con-
ferences had thus come up to the help of the Missionary cause, and
that it would be expected of us to follow their example. Wherefore
it was:-
Resolved: That S. Chase, A. Herring and B. R. Wilson be a committee
to draft a constitution for said Society, to be submitted to the
Conference. Resolved. To have a public Missionary meeting on next
Monday evening. Meeting for the purpose of electing officers obtaining
subscribers with the grant of powers and privileges as made to
them in the order of the late General Conference, that it would be
perfectly justifiable in their part to urge on the membership, a
greater attention to the, and of the Ministry. This was therefore:
Resolved that every member of this Conference be required to lay be-
fore the membership on their respective charges the necessity of
their assisting in the support of the Ministry. The Committee on
the subject of Baptism now reported to the Conference that as they
could not agree together on the subject, no written report would
be presented on the subject, but the following resolution was moved
by S. Chase. Wherefore it has been ascertained that some differences
is obtained in this Conference in reference to the Baptism of such
persons in Christ, but only to be seeking it. Therefore:-
Resolved: That in the judgment of this Conference it is the safest and
in favor of God in the forgiveness of their sins has been professed
by them, and that any instance of departure from the course thus re
recommended by this Conference meeting reprehension.
Conference adjourned to meet on Monday the 9th. Closed with Prayer
by Elijah Johnson.

MONDAY JANUARY 9TH

Conference assembled as usual and was opened by the Superintendent
with Singing and reading of the Scriptures. Prayer was given by A.
Herring.

There were present Rev. John Seyes, Superintendent, G. Simpson
S. Chase, A. Herring, F. Burns, E. Johnson, B. R. Wilson, H. Mumford,
H. B. Mathews, S. Bayley, and Daniel Ware.
The Journal of Saturday was read and adopted. The Committee on Discipline now reported to this Conference as follows:—which after some discussion and amendment, was adopted.

The Committee on Discipline begs leave to report to this Conference that among the membership, there appears to abide and be governed by our excellent Discipline; and that this prevails more particularly in the settlements and on stations up the St. Paul River. That where there has been a back on this point, they are of the opinion that it has proceeded either from want of attention from their part of the Preachers in Charge of Circuits, or delinquency on the part of Official Members.

After some remarks on the cause of failure in this particular, it was:

Resolved: That all Preachers in charge of Circuits or Stations, have as weekly meeting of their leaders according to the Discipline; and in case of delinquents, report them to the next Quarterly meeting Conference. The Committee appointed to draft a Constitution for the Missionary Society now presented to the Conference the following—which was unanimously adopted, and recommended to be submitted for adoption at the public meeting to be held.

**CONSTITUTION**

**Article 1:**
This Society shall be known as "The Liberia Conference Missionary Society" auxiliary to be the Parent Missionary Society of the M. E. Church in the United States of America.

**Article 2:**
The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute a member, and the payment of ten dollars at one time a member for life.

**Article 3:** The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and the Treasurer, who together with five managers, shall form a Board for the transaction of business. They shall all be members of the M. E. Church, and all be annually elected by the Society, excepting the President, who shall be the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission.

**Article 4:** The Board of Managers shall have authority to make Bye Laws for its own regulations fill up vacancies that may occur during the year, and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society at its Annual meeting. It shall be their duty also, to meet Quarterly, at some convenient hour of the Saturday of each regular Quarterly Meeting, for the Monrovia Station, for the purpose of doing any business that may appertain to them as a Board of Managers, and especially consult for the best interests of the Society as circumstances may require.

**Article 5:** All the travelling and local preachers of the M. E. Church being members of the Society shall be ex-Officio members of the Board of Managers.

**Article 6:** At all meeting of the Society, and of the Board, the President or in his absence the Vice President, or in the absence of both, the Secretary shall preside, and on all such occa-
the absence of both, a person appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside, and on all such occasions a majority of two thirds of all the members of the Society or of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Chairman.

Article 7. The Annual meeting for the election of Officers and Managers shall take place at some convenient period of each Session of the Liberia Mission Annual Conference.

Article 8. The Treasurer of this Society shall have authority to pay to the order of the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission such funds that he may from time to time have in hand, and it shall be the duty of the Superintendent to account for the same to the Society.

Article 9. It shall be the duty of every Preacher having the Charge of the Circuit or Station with the bounds of this Conference as soon as practicable to organize branch Missionary Societies to aid this Conference auxiliary in promoting its benevolent objects.

Article 10. This constitution may be attended by a vote of a constitutional quorum of the Society of its Annual Meetings.

It was moved now by S. Chase, seconded and resolved—That
WHEREAS it is known to be an approved usage in several of the American Conferences for those on Trial, as that they shall pass, an Annual examination for four years successively; and WHEREAS such thorough and extensive training in the various branches of study by giving him double the usual term allowed for that purpose: THEREFORE Resolved: That the Liberia Mission Annual Conference adopt this course in reference to all who have not passed more than two years since the commencement of their itinerant service, and likewise in reference to all who may hereafter be received among us as fellow labourers in the Vineyard and of our Lord.

The following preamble and resolutions were also adopted by the Conference. WHEREAS it must appear to all considerate and intelligent persons that a very considerable share of knowledge as well as piety, is essential to the stability and growing usefulness of the Christian Ministry; and WHEREAS many have in the Providence of God, been called to enter upon it, without those literary advantages which are so desirable and important to the full success of their work, THEREFORE:

RESOLVED: That the Liberia Annual Mission Conference now in Session shall before it finally adjourns, adopt suitable measures for, and actually resolved itself to a literary society, to be denominated by the Liberia Mission Conference Lyceum to be divided into classes consisting of two, three, or more according to the convenience of the individuals in the voluntary selection of their studies. One of each class be elected by themselves shall serve as Chairman in an Annual Examination of the class of which he shall be a member and each Chairman shall be also examined either by the President of the Conference or some one who shall be appointed for the purpose. There shall also be annually a literary address delivered at some convenient period during the Session of the Conference by some one whom the Conference Lyceum, shall have elected for that purpose expressly at the previous Session.

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On the adoption of the foregoing resolution the following classes were formed:

1st. Class including Grammar, Geography, and General History.
Names of members: Elijah Johnson, B. R. Wilson, D. Ware, Henry Mumford, G. Simpson and H. B. Mathews.

2nd. Class including elements of Natural Philosophy, Biblical and Theological knowledge and Church History. Names of members are Amos Herring and Francis Burns.

The Literary Lyceum having requested of the Superintendent to appoint the individual to deliver the address (Literary) at the next meeting of the Society of the Annual Conference Meeting. The Rev. S. Chase was accordingly appointed.

Resolved: To have a Camp Meeting within the bounds of the Conference bo commenced on Wednesday the 13th of February. The place to be selected by the following Committee who were appointed for this purpose and other arrangements by the Conference. G. Simpson, D. Ware, Amos Herring and B. R. Wilson.

Resolved: That there be monthly Missionary Prayer Meetings; held on all the Circuits and Stations; within the Conference, on the first Monday evening in every month.
Ques: 15. Where are all the Preachers stationed this year?


A. D. Williams without an appointment for this year at his own request.

Ques: 16. When and where shall our next Conference be held?
Ans: In the city of Monrovia, on Thursday the 4th of January, 1838. Journal of the day was read and adopted.

Resolved: That this Conference adjourn. Closed by Squire Chase with Singing, Prayer and Benediction.

(Sgd) John Seys, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MISSION.

(Sgd) Francis Burns, SECRETARY.