MINUTES

OF

Colored Annual Conference

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT ZOAR CHURCH,

Philadelphia, August 5th, 1857,

PHILADELPHIA:
HIGGINS & PERKINS,
METHODIST BOOKSTORE, No. 56 NORTH FOURTH STREET.
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1857.
A Conference of Colored Local Preachers, called by Bishop Scott, at the request of the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at its session in March, 1857, met according to appointment at Zoar M. E. Church, Philadelphia, on Wednesday, August 6th, 1857.

Bishop Scott called the Conference to order at 10 o'clock A. M., and read the 5th chapter of 2nd Corinthians. The Conference united in singing the 217th hymn, which was followed with prayer by the Bishop.

An address was then made by the Chair, explaining the extent of the call and the nature of the business to be transacted.

The districts embraced in the call were as follows: From the Phila. Conference, North and South Philadelphia, in Penna., and those parts of Wilmington, Easton and Snow Hill, lying in the state of Delaware. Also, Burlington and Bridgeton Districts, of the New Jersey Conference.

The following Presiding Elders were present, viz:
P. Coombe of North Philadelphia District.
W. Cooper of South do.
W. Urie of Wilmington do.
W. McCombs of Easton do.
G. F. Brown of Burlington do.
S. Y. Monroe of Bridgeton do.

On motion, P. Coombe was elected Secretary, and David Tilghman, a colored Elder from Zoar Church, Assistant.

The following colored Local Preachers were present during the whole or part of the session, viz:

From Zoar, James Davis, Local Elder.
   " " D. Tilghman, " Preacher.
   " " Richard Crawford, " Deacon.
   " " Peter Wise, " Preacher.
   " " Daniel Carter, " do.
   " " William Polk, " do.
   " " Sherry E. Adams, " do.
   " " Rodger O. Adams, " do.
   " " Isaac Hinson, " Elder.
   " " Wm. P. Gibson, " Preacher.
   " " John Brown, " do.
   " " Philip Scott, " Elder.
   " " John Fisher, " Preacher.
   " " Alexander Lee, " Deacon.
   " " Samuel Dale, " do.
   " " Joshua Brinkley, " Preacher.
   " " Solomon Midcap, " do.
   " " Nathan Young, " Deacon.
   " " Rendal Johnson, " Preacher.
On motion, D. Tilghman, P. Wise and R. Crawford were appointed a committee on finance to receive the monies raised to defray the expenses of the Conference, and pay out the same.

J. Davis, D. Carter, and I. Hinson, were appointed a committee on public worship.

The Chair then called for statistics, which were reported at this and subsequent sessions, and will be found, together with a list of churches, and classes on another page.

On motion, the Conference adjourned at 12 o'clock, to meet again at 2½.

The Doxology was then sung, and the Conference dismissed with prayer by S. Adams. Wednesday Afternoon, August 5th.

Conference met according to adjournment at 2½ o'clock.

Bishop Scott in the Chair.

Religious Services by I. Hinson.

Journal read and approved.

W. P. Gibson and J. Brown, from Mount Zion, Burlington District, appeared and took their seats. Also, Philip Scott and John Fisher, E. Zion, Wilmington District.

The call for statistics was renewed, and several charges were reported and added to the list of this morning.

An effort was then made to obtain the statistics of Sabbath Schools, but it was found that many of the churches were not represented, and most of those which were, had not anticipated the call, and were not prepared to report. The matter was therefore deferred, with the understanding that a full report should be returned the coming year.

On motion, the Secretaries were requested to prepare the Minutes for publication.

A call was then made to ascertain the number of churches desirous of being served with colored preachers, and willing to contribute to their support; and all named in the list found on subsequent page, were represented as either desirous or willing to enter into the arrangement.

A letter from Rev. W. C. Robinson, preacher in charge of Dover Circuit, was presented and read, which stated it to be the unanimous desire of the colored members of that place to have the services of a colored preacher.

The roll was then called to ascertain who were willing to devote themselves to the work, and receive appointments. After a full explanation by the Chair, and several of the Presiding Elders, of the nature and responsibilities of the work, the following offered their services, viz: James Davis, Richard Crawford, Rodger O. Adams, Isaac Hinson, William P. Gibson, John Fisher, John Brown, Philip Scott, Harrison Smith and Samuel Midcap.

B. Brown, R. P. Bell and F. Bagger, Local Preachers from Baltimore, were present, as visitors to the Conference.

On motion, the Conference adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Notices were then given; the Doxology was sung, and the conference dismissed with prayer, by D. Tilghman.
Conference met at 8 o'clock.  
Bishop Scott in the Chair. 
Religious services by J. Brinkley. 
Journal read and approved. 
The following members appeared and took their seats, viz. Alexander Lee, from Smyrna Circuit, Samuel Dale and Joshua Brinkley from Odessa. 
Eli Nugent, from Washington, was presented as a visitor. 
Samuel Dale and Joshua Brinkley expressed their willingness to take such work for the present year as their circumstances would allow. 
At this point in the proceedings, a free conversation took place, relating to the duties growing out of the new relations about to be established, and it was conceded that both preachers and people would require special efforts to accommodate them for the present year, but that after this, all must conform to the necessities of the work. 
The Chair then called for a representation of the character and qualifications of those who had offered themselves for the work, which was given by the members and Presiding Elders. 
James Davis desired to know if the Conference could not elect colored preachers to Deacons and Elders orders. The Chair decided that it could not, as the General Conference had conferred no such power, and that election to orders would be attended to by the Annual Conferences as heretofore. 
The Chair then directed the attention of the Conference to the necessity of providing a "course of study for the Preachers engaged in the regular work."
The Chair having stated the necessity of meeting the Presiding Elders, to make out the appointments, the Conference adjourned at 10½ o'clock to meet again at 3. 
Notices were then given, the Doxology was sung, and the Conference dismissed with prayer by A. Lee. 
Note.—At 1 o'clock, a handsome collation was prepared in the basement of the church, by the Ladies of Zoar, for the Bishop, Presiding Elders and members of the Conference.

Thursday afternoon, August 6th. 
Conference met at 3 o'clock. Bishop Scott in the Chair. 
Religious services by Philip Scott. Journal read and approved. 
Solomon Midcap, and Nathan Young, from Slaughter Neck, and Rendal Johnson, from Springtown circuit, appeared and took their seats. 
S. Midcap and N. Young were willing to take such work as their business for the present year would permit. 
On motion, the Secretaries were directed to have five hundred copies of the Minutes published for the use of the Conference. 
The following resolutions were then presented, read and adopted, viz.: 
Resolved, That the Conference earnestly recommends, that those Preachers who may be appointed by the Bishop, or employed by the Presiding Elders, procure a copy of the Holy Scriptures, Hymn-book,
Discipline, Fletcher's Appeal, and Wesley's Sermons; and prepare themselves to pass an examination on these several books, at the next session of the Conference; and it is further recommended, that they provide themselves with Hart's English Grammar, and study it as they have opportunity.

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance, be directed to pay to the Secretary the sum of three dollars for the purchase of a book, to be kept by the Assistant Secretary as the Journal of this Conference, and it shall be his duty to record the proceedings therein.

Resolved, That each preacher in charge, be directed to take up a collection at all his appointments, and return the same to the next session of this body for the purpose of aiding needy preachers who have been employed in the regular work.

The Conference then proceeded to fix the place of its next session, Wilmington, Salem and Mt. Zion, were placed in nomination and duly represented.

The vote was then taken, and Wilmington having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared the place, and the Chair named the 4th of August, 1858, as the time of the next session.

The Committee on Finance presented the following Report which was adopted:

Cash received from Zoa Church, $55 08
   " " John Wesley, 22 52
   " " E. Zion, 8 29
   " " Zion, Port Penn, 2 00
   " " Odessa, 1 75
   " " Milford, 2 00
   " " Mt. Zion, 18 00
   " " Goshen, 2 00
   " " Fordsville, 1 75

Total, 113 39

CONTRA OB.

Paid expenses of S. and R. Adams, $9 50
   " " W. Polk, 5 00
   " " J. Brinkley, 1 00
   " " S. Dale, 2 00
   " " A. Lee, 2 00
   " " P. Scott, 1 00
   " " J. Fisher, 1 00
   " " E. Nugent, 5 00
   " " N. Young, 5 50
   " " R. Johnson, 2 00

Paid Board of Members, 17 50
   " Journal for Conference, 3 00 54 50

Balance in hands of Committee, $58 89
On motion, D. Tilghman was appointed Treasurer of the Conference, and authorized to receive those collections which have not been paid, and directed to return the money to the next session for the use of the Conference.

The Journal was then read and approved, and the Conference proceeded to its closing services.

The Chair gave out the hymn beginning with, “And let our bodies part,” which having been sung, prayer was offered by Sherry Adams. The Chair then briefly addressed the Conference and read the following list of appointments for the coming year.

North Philadelphia District.
Zoar, John Wesley and Centreville.—Isaac Hinson.

Wilmington District.
East Zion and New Castle.—Philip Scott.
Odessa Circuit, including Zoar, St. Paul’s and Zion.—Samuel Dale.

Easton District.
Smyrna Circuit, including Lee’s Chapel, Friendship, Keys Road and Smyrna.—James Davis.
Dover Circuit, including Dover, Thomas’ Chapel, Jones’ Neck, Gum Swamp and Muddy Branch.—Rodger O. Adams.

Milford Circuit, including Milford, Slaughter Neck, Barratt’s Chapel, Purnell’s, Williamsville, Law’s and Wesley Chapel.—Two to be supplied.

Snow Hill District.
Georgetown Circuit, including all societies in Delaware excepting Slaughter Neck.—S. Midcap and R. Crawford.

Burlington District.
Zion Circuit.—W. P. Gibson.

Bridgeton District.
Springtown Circuit.—H. Smith.
Bay Shore Circuit.—To be supplied.

The Doxology was then sung and the Conference dismissed with the Benediction.

Thus ended the first Annual Conference of the Colored Preachers, under the new provisions of the Discipline. It was remarkable for the dignity and harmony of its proceedings, and it is hoped that the arrangements will be of lasting benefit to our colored membership and population.

P. COOMBE,
D. TILGHMAN,

Secretaries.

Philadelphia, Aug. 6, 1857.
The following are the Churches and Classes, with the members, as far as reported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Probationers</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoar, John Wesley, Centreville</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Philadelphia District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Zion, New Castle, Odyssey Circuit</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna Circuit—Lee's Chapel, Friendship, Keys Road, Smyrna</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dover Circuit—Dover, Thomas Chapel, Jones’ Neck, Gum Swamp, Muddy Branch</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford Circuit—Milford, Slaughter Neck, Barratt’s Chapel, Purnell’s, Law’s, Wesley</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURLINGTON DISTRICT</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Zion Circuit—Zion, Blackwoodtown, Homestead, Milford, Maddentown, New Freedom</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIDGETON DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springtown Circuit—Penn’s Neck, Salem, Springtown, Fordsville</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Shore Circuit—Cold Spring, Goshen</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SNOW HILL DISTRICT**—Milton, Lewestown, Lewestown Neck, Laurel, Indian River, Friendship, Bridgeville. No report from these places.

**Note.**—As this whole arrangement is new, and the call not understood by many of the societies, the list of churches, classes and members is of necessity very imperfect, owing to the absence of H. Colclazar, Presiding Elder of the Snow Hill District, and many of the Preachers from other parts of the work. This we hope to remedy in the future sessions of the Conference.
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Jehovah's Scripture Promises, being a collection of the sweet, assuring promises of Scripture, or the believer's inheritance, by Samuel Clack, D.D. 3 0.
THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH,
AND
CONTINENTAL LETTERS AND SKETCHES,
FROM THE
Letters and Sermons of the Rev. James Canghey,


"CANGHEY'S TRIUMPH OF TRUTH."—Rev. Mr. Atwood of Philadelphia Conference writes:—

Allow me to call the attention of all young ministers, and all contemplating entering the ministry, to the book recently published in this city, by Higgins & Perkins, It is Mr. Canghey’s Triumph of Truth. It is truly valuable in many respects. As a history of several very gracious revivals of religion, it is full of interest, and will profitably be perused, and his notes of travel on the continent of Europe, are worth a score of times more than the price of the work.

But I desire to call the attention of all young students for the ministry to his letters on the subject of a Call to, and preparation for the work of the ministry. I esteem his views not only correct but vastly important.

If the world is to be redeemed from the curse by the preaching of Christ crucified, very much, most certainly, depends on the character, spirit, and qualifications of the men who preach it. The minister, more than any other, should be a man of one soul, his eye single, his aim direct, and his heart and soul deeply affected with his work, otherwise he cannot succeed or be an earnest man. And the absence of earnestness leaves him almost totally powerless. Education is good and study important; but without a fervent spirit and a deal of energy, he cannot impress his hearers, or be successful in leading men to forsake sin and seek holiness.

The perusal of this book, in my opinion, will tend to precisely this result, and especially Mr. Canghey’s letters on that subject. I have read every word of the book and been profited by it, and therefore most humbly make these suggestions to my younger brethren in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I happen to be in a position now to see and know more of the effect of Mr. Canghey’s labors than has before been allowed me, as he spent some three months last winter and spring preaching in the church of my present appointment. The work was truly genuine, as the present spiritual condition of the society most fully shows. May it continue to the end of time, and may the good Lord pour out upon all his ministers a full shower of Divine influence, that the revival spirit may pervade the whole Church.

A WORK FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN.

CLARK’S SCRIPTURE PROMISES.

An Address to Young America and a Word to the Old Folks.